Mike Arroyo on road overprice: What? Me again?

Story below, Col. 3

RP 'illegals' live it up in Israeli detention

By Blanche S. Rivera

THEY'RE living it up, at least in comparison with their counterparts elsewhere. They live in condominiums with luxu-

RP/A18

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NEVER AGAIN

EDWIN BACASMAS

30 years after, conditions remain the same

CURRENT conditions "provide fertile grounds" for exploitation by "extremist forces," Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said yesterday.

The opposition senator, raised the warning on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the declaration of martial law, saying the Philippines' political and economic conditions were the same as when the late Ferdinand Marcos imposed strongman rule and "spelled the death of democracy" here, and were now "creating a sense of despair and restiveness among the people."

"The pervasive poverty, deteriorating quality of life, continuing disunity among the Filipino people and government ineptitude in dealing with grave national ills provide fertile grounds for extremist forces, whether Left or Right, to exploit the situation for sinister and undemocratic objectives," Pimentel said in a statement. Pimentel was jailed three times during martial rule.

But Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., chief of the Philippine National Police, said: "I don't think it will happen."

Speaking at the Manila Overseas Press Club-PNP Night at the Manila Hotel Thursday night, Ebdane said there would not be a repeat of martial law. "Being the chief of the PNP, I can say that there is no such plan, including the other side of Edsa," he said. "In the first place, nobody in his right mind will think of that. We have learned our lesson."

He suggested that Filipinos remember the dark years of martial rule and "be reminded of what happened 30 years ago so that this will not be repeated in terms of governance and in terms of involvement of the community and the population itself."

But other lawmakers noted the linger-

NEVER/A19

MARCOS LEGACY

Militarization

By John Nery and PDI Research

WHEN Gen. Manuel Yan retired as Armed Forces chief of staff in January 1972, President Ferdinand Marcos made a bold move: he appointed Yan ambassador to Thailand.

It was the first time a retired general was drafted into diplomatic service, and took many by surprise. It would not be the last.

Just this month, retired AFP chief Gen. Roy Cimatu was named special envoy in charge of coordinating government action in the event of yet another crisis in Iraq. The difference in how the two appointments were received is a reminder of the damage martial law wrought on the country.

Yan's first appointment (he was later named ambassador to Indonesia and, during the term of President Corazon Aquino, even served as acting foreign

MILITARIZATION/ A6

Foreign debt

By Raul Dancel

"FERDINAND Marcos and his wife, Imelda, probably surpassed all other politicians at fiscal manipulation, economic favoritism and 'cooking the books' to enable themselves, their friends and their relatives to steal from the Filipino people," Patricia Adams, executive director of Toronto-based think tank Probe International, said in a paper, "Odious Debts: Loose Lending, Corruption and the Third World's Environmental Legacy."

When Marcos became president in 1966, the Philippines' debts stood at just under $1 billion. When he fled the country in 1986, that figure had soared to over $28 billion.

The Marcos story would have had a happy ending had all the debts his government incurred went to spurring growth

FOREIGN/A18

Seized Marcos assets slowly disappearing

By Donna S. Cueto

THE ONLY solid Marcos assets already in government's safekeeping—or so it was believed—are disappearing little by little.

Sixteen years after they were sequestered with much fanfare by the Presidential Commission on Good Government, not a few of these assets may have been returned to their orginal owner, Imelda Marcos, according to PCGG commissioner Victoria Avena.

Avena said that in an inspection tour last month, the PCGG discovered that only 48 of the 91 Russian religious icons dating to the 18th and 19th centuries, stored at the Sto. Nino Shrine in Tacloban City, remained there.

The Sto. Nino Shrine, built by Mrs. Marcos, showcases expensive furniture and works of art, which in 1986 after the Edsa I Revolt included: 91 Russian reli-

SEIZED/A20

KATARUNGAN

THE MARTYRS of martial rule are remembered on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the declaration of martial law at the foot of Mendiola Bridge. ***(For other memory sites see Page A19)***

JOAN BONDOC

The missing

By Howie G. Severino
Contributor

LUCENA, QUEZON—After 25 years of nursing the emotional equivalent of an open wound, Carmen Jasul recently made a trip to an overgrown paupers' cemetery in this city in search of healing.

Her younger brother Ramon, a budding campus journalist turned underground activist during martial law, had disappeared in 1977. He was part of a close-knit group of 10 like-minded idealists in their 20s, all of whom vanished within a period of several weeks. Before they disappeared, at least one had told loved ones that they were being followed by the military.

The mutilated bodies of three of Ramon's companions were eventually found, but the rest continue to exist in that anguished realm of rumor and faded hopes. The 10 are among the 1,000-plus victims of martial law who "involuntarily disappeared."

They are an apt symbol of the damage military rule wrought on an entire generation, and of the lack of closure, of healing, that haunts those who survived

THE MISSING/ A18

36% of Meralco owned by unknown persons

By Rocky Nazareno

WHO really owns Meralco? The Senate committee reviewing the Manila Electric Co. franchise wants to know.

The franchise committee chaired by Sen. Joker Arroyo is mulling whether to grant the company, which supplies 70 percent of the power requirements of Luzon, a consolidated franchise.

"We want a breakdown of Filipino and foreign ownership (in Meralco)," Arroyo said.

Meralco supplies electricity to all of Metro Manila as well as to Batangas, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Quezon, Rizal and parts of Pampanga.

It operates on the strength of 16 franchises granted by municipalities, 33 granted by the National Electrification Commission and one franchise granted by Congress for 11 cities and municipalities in Metro Manila.

In all, it serves 22 cities and 89 municipalities.

Meralco has applied for one consolidated franchise for all its 50 expiring or expired franchises with Congress.

In documents submitted by Meralco during the committee's hearing last Thursday, it was

36%/ A6

Mike A on road scam: What? Me again?

By Carlito Pablo, Rocky Nazareno and Juliet Javellana

'What? Me again?"

First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo could only shout in protest yesterday over reports that he had been linked by some to the allegedly anomalous construction of the President Diosdado Macapagal Avenue in the Manila Bay reclamation area.

"Why is it every time something happens, they connect me to it?" said Arroyo, who was also recently linked to the proposed government buyout of the controversial Naia Terminal 3 project.

Close Arroyo friend Dante Ang, the President's publicist, had a chance to ask a similar question on Wednesday night, when for a tense 15 minutes he found himself face to face with Sulficio Tagud Jr., the Public Estates Authority director who blew the whistle in the latest scam to rock the Macapagal administration. But Ang was reportedly at a loss for words.

In the Senate, Sen. Juan Flavier urged government officials involved in the highway project to go on an indefinite leave of absence while the project is under investigation.

Flavier told Senate reporters

MIKE/A6

Perez wants Chinese envoy kicked out

By Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadora

IT WOULD be the first time for the Philippine government to declare a diplomat persona non grata. That is if Justice Secretary Hernando Perez would have his way.

Yesterday Perez said he would seek to have Chinese Ambassador Wang Chungui expelled for trying to intimidate him into the early release of 122 Chinese fishermen caught poaching in Philippine waters.

Perez said he verbally clashed with Wang over the issue earlier yesterday and said he would ask the Department of Foreign Affairs to have the ambassador declared persona non grata for trying to bully him.

"We cannot allow ourselves to be bullied. We quarreled," Perez told reporters.

He alleged that the ambas-

PEREZ/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Light to moderate winds coming from the southwest and west will prevail over Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

Rash of kidnaps rattles Taipans

By Carlito Pablo and TJ Burgonio

THEY have all the money to hire private bodyguards to protect themselves and their families from kidnap-for-ransom syndicates that prey on the rich.

But perhaps mindful of their standing as the movers and shakers of Philippine business, ethnic Chinese tycoons are calling for more protection from government in the face of the increasing daring of kidnap gangs which last week seized the children of Rep. Julio Ledesma.

"I think the government has the obligation to provide security for us," said Andrew Gotianun at a press briefing in Malacañang yesterday.

"I think that's of fundamental importance because we cannot afford this kind of foolishness going on," said the chief executive officer of the property giant Fil-Estate Corp.

"By all means, they should look at this (kidnapping problem) seriously," said Gotianun.

"I am sure they (the government) know who they, the bad eggs, are," he said, without elaborating.

But Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. has turned down proposals to assign additional police security to senators, congressmen and other VIPs who feel particularly threatened by the recent rash of kidnappings.

"We'll only provide security as necessary. Those who think they are threatened should come to us for the training of their own personnel (on crime prevention)," he said.

At least five kidnappings have been reported this month, including that of the Ledesma children.

Gotianun was replying to questions from journalists at the press conference that followed a meeting he and other Chinese-Filipino tycoons attended in Malacañang yesterday in which President Macapagal-Arroyo solicited their help in a proposed mass housing program for government employees.

Among those present were shopping mall magnate Henry Sy, John Gokongwei, and representatives of Alfonso Yuchengco and George Ty.

Lucio Tan, the Philippine Airlines owner, was out of the country and did not attend the meeting that also included Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Housing Secretary Michael Defensor.

Gokongwei, for his part, noted that "at least the government is taking steps," citing reports that seven of the 21 identified kidnap-for-ransom syndicates have been eliminated.

"If they continue this way, we should be able to get rid of them (kidnappers) in another six months," Gokongwei said.

But "everybody is concerned," he said.

Even in the face of the kidnapping menace, however, the tycoons would continue to invest their money in the country, said Sy.

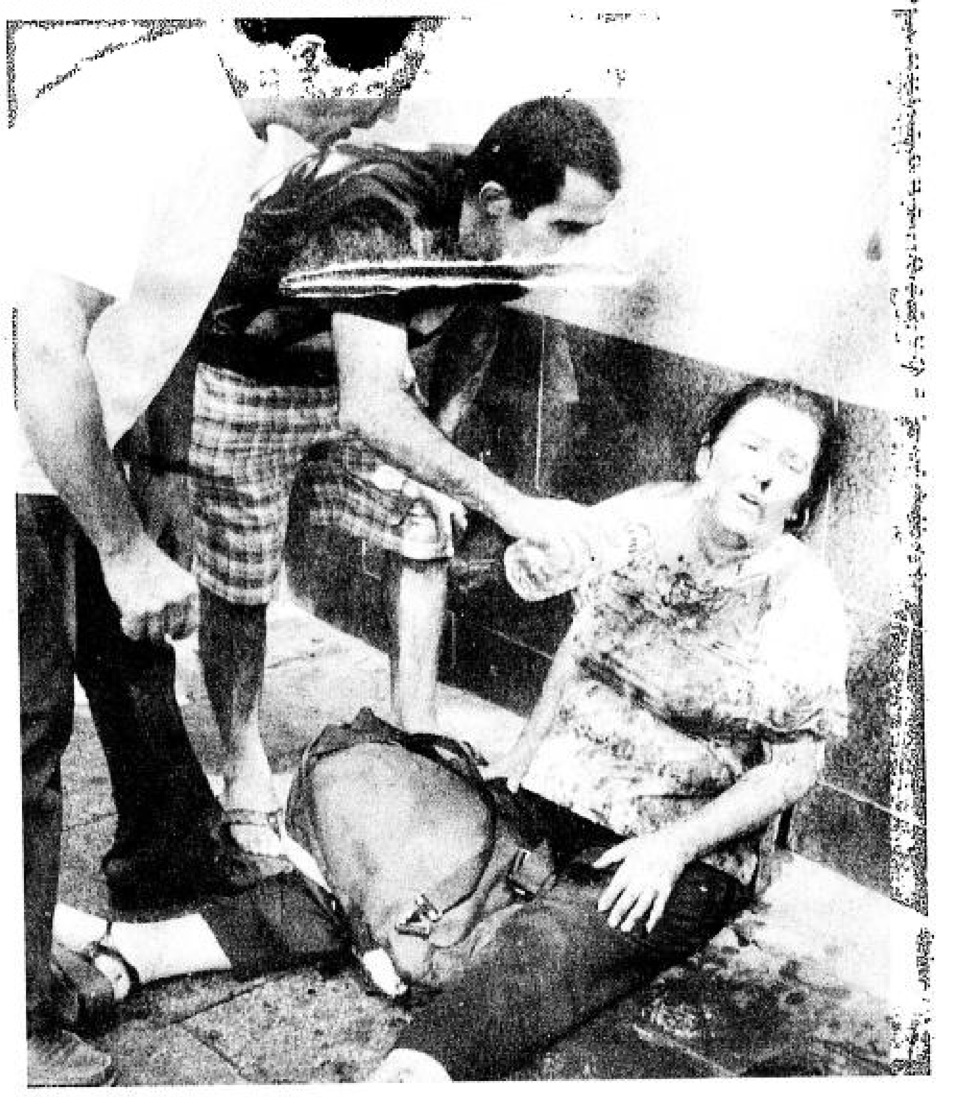
"We have been continuing to invest," he said. "We have shown confidence in this country."

He described the kidnapping problem as like any other crisis, and therefore temporary in nature.

"We have been expanding (with) every crisis. We look at these crises as temporary in a country which has a lot of potential," he said.

He believes the crises would be "addressed sooner or later."

During the meeting with the President, the tycoons said they would support the program to develop government properties for mass housing.



REUTERS

WOUNDED FILIPINA

Israeli rescue personnel help a wounded woman reported to be from the Philippines at the site of a suicide attack in a city bus, in Tel Aviv on Thursday. The woman remained unidentified at presstime. The suicide bomber blew himself up on the crowded bus during lunch hour, killing five people and wounding about 50 others.

Slain kidnappers out to sow terror, says Ebdane

By TJ Burgonio

THE THREE alleged members of the Patinio-Radam kidnap-for-ransom gang were reportedly plotting to sow terror in Metro Manila several days before they were killed in a shootout with the police in Cavite last Wednesday.

Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. made the disclosure before local and foreign journalists at the Manila Hotel Thursday night. He also dismissed persistent speculations that the suspects were victims of a rubout.

"There were actually reports before that there is such a plan, but we only found out yesterday with the evidence at hand," he said when asked if the three suspects had planned to mount terror attacks in the metropolis on Sept. 11 during the Manila Overseas Press Club-PNP Night at the Manila Hotel.

Operatives recovered two mobile phone-activated bombs from Rodolfo Patinio, Eugene Radam and Diosdado Santos after a brief gun battle at their safehouse in General Trias, Cavite, before dawn last Wednesday.

Ebdane said that Patinio and Radam, former Marines, and Santos were "knowledgeable in the use of explosives."

A highly placed source had admitted receiving intelligence information that a group had planned to launch terror acts in the metropolis on Sept. 11, the first anniversary of the terror assaults on New York and Washington, D.C.

"We were baffled why they had those explosives in their possession," he said.

Ebdane also disclosed that Abdul Macaumbang, a detainee who escaped with Patinio and Pentagon gang leader Faisal Marohombsar from the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force headquarters in Camp Crame on June 25, was still in the metropolis.

"He's planning something foolish," he said, but did not elaborate.

Marohombsar was killed in a shootout with the police while trying to escape from their hideout along with kidnap victim Patricia Lopez-Chong and her nanny in Cavite on Aug. 25. The kidnap victims were rescued unhurt.

Ebdane's disclosures came a day after a source had said that one of the three guns seized from the slain suspects, a 9mm Pietro Beretta pistol, had been issued to Supt. Rafael Cardeno, the alleged mastermind in the killing of Baron Cervantes last year.

Patino, Radam and Santos were earlier identified as lookouts when ex-Marine sergeant Joseph Mostrales shot self-styled YOU spokesperson Cervantes on the night of Dec. 31 in Las Piñas City.

Reacting to persistent speculations that the three had been summarily executed, Ebdane invited critics to join their operations. "We'll give them helmets and vests for protection . . ."

4 Army Scout Rangers killed in NPA ambush in Leyte

By Martin P. Marfil

FOUR scout rangers were killed while two others were wounded when f suspected communist rebels ambushed an Army jeep yesterday in Mahaplag, Leyte.

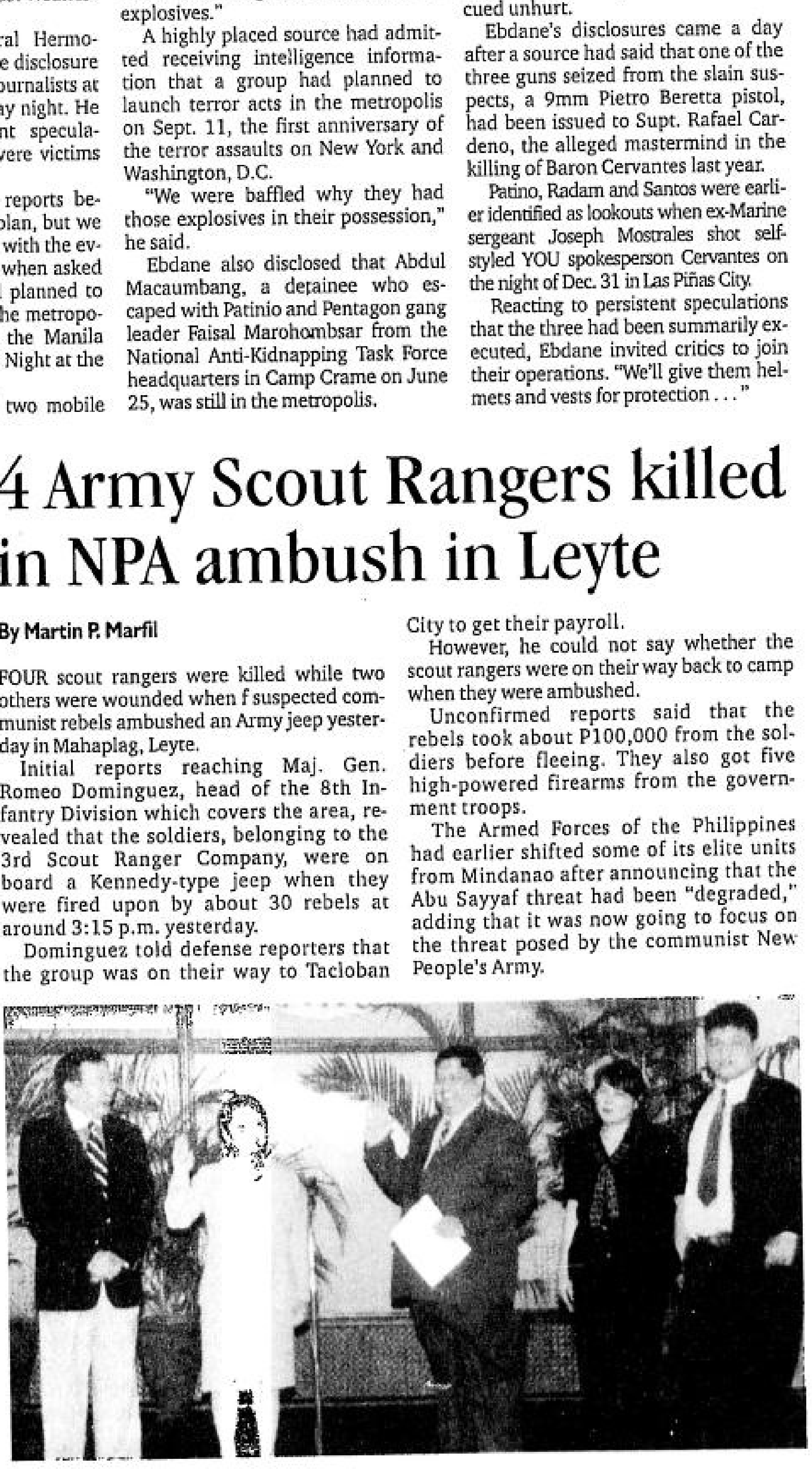
Initial reports reaching Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, head of the 8th Infantry Division which covers the area, revealed that the soldiers, belonging to the 3rd Scout Ranger Company, were on board a Kennedy-type jeep when they were fired upon by about 30 rebels at around 3:15 p.m. yesterday.

Dominguez told defense reporters that the group was on their way to Tacloban City to get their payroll.

However, he could not say whether the scout rangers were on their way back to camp when they were ambushed.

Unconfirmed reports said that the rebels took about P100,000 from the soldiers before fleeing. They also got five high-powered firearms from the government troops.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines had earlier shifted some of its elite units from Mindanao after announcing that the Abu Sayyaf threat had been "degraded," adding that it was now going to focus on the threat posed by the communist New People's Army.



NEW PIA CHIEF

UP Professor and Presidential Speechwriter Dr. Rene Velasco takes his oath as director general of the Philippine Information Agency before President Macapagal-Arroyo and Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo. With Velasco are his wife Erlinda and son Ninoy.

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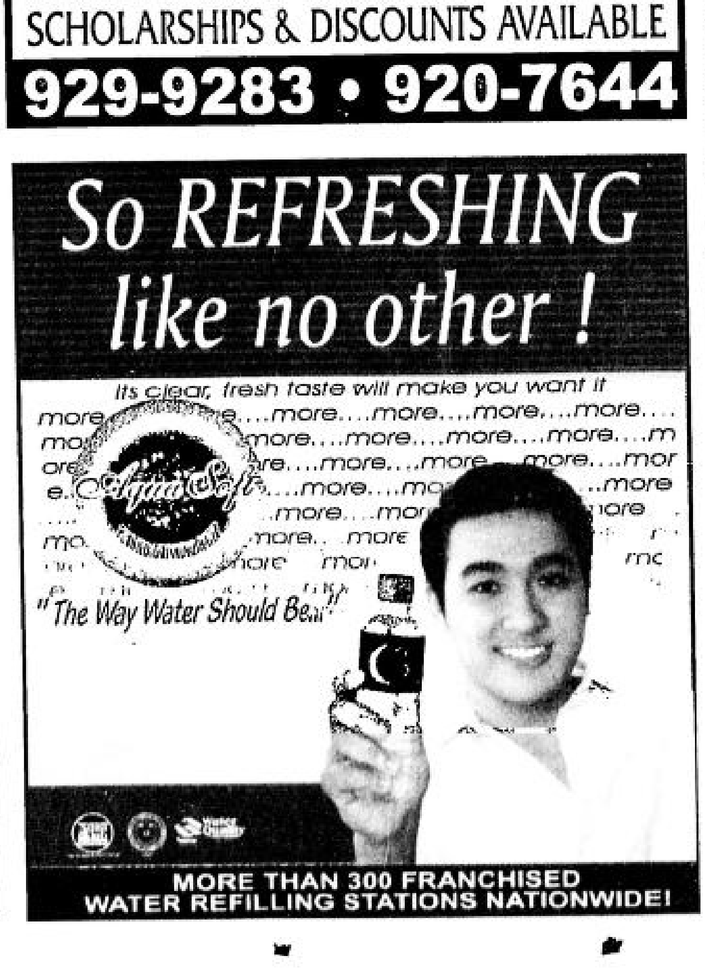

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Piatco: Climaco scared Germans

By Abigail L. Ho

THE GERMAN partners in the controversial Naia Terminal 3 project were allegedly intimidated by Gloria Tan-Climaco, the presidential adviser on special projects, into turning against their Chinese-Filipino partners.

This was the claim of Jeffrey Cheng, the chief executive officer of the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), in an interview with the INQUIRER last Thursday.

Cheng said he could think of no other reason why Frankfurt Airport Services Worldwide (Fraport AG) would suddenly turn its back on the Chengs, Piatco's Filipino and majority shareholder.

Cheng said that Climaco, who had been tasked by Malacañang to review the controversial project, had been pressuring Fraport long before the Senate inquiry into the project began.

"Based on my calculations, she scared them. She pressured them into wanting to give the project to the government," Cheng said.

He claimed that the Chengs fell out with their German partners early this year when they suspected that Fraport was leaking confidential documents pertaining to the Naia 3 project to Climaco.

In an earlier briefing, Climaco said the Germans—whose testimony in the Senate investigation had uncovered as the actual majority owner of Piatco because of "corporate layering"—had soured on the Chengs because the Piatco management refused to explain or justify how or why the cost of the project had ballooned from $350 million to $657 million.

Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, the former revenue commissioner who is the legal counsel of the Cheng family, claimed that she had been told by Fraport's lawyers that Climaco had actually talked Fraport into approaching the government with an offer.

"In a July 7 negotiation, she (Climaco) told Fraport that it would be better for them to turn the project over to the government now as the government would eventually take over anyway," Chato said.

In an earlier interview, Climaco denied having coerced the Germans into abandoning the Chengs and giving over control of the terminal to the government. She said it was Fraport that had proposed the government takeover, leaving the government with two options: a 100-percent takeover of the project or of the Chengs' 60-percent share in the company.

"This has become a legal issue now. The Germans themselves are willing to sell for a price. I will fight this out because I know I'm in the right here. This is why (President Macapagal-Arroyo) is supporting me," Climaco said.

Piatco and the Chengs are holding out for a renegotiation of the contract, preferably with the Cabinet review committee headed by Socio-economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas.

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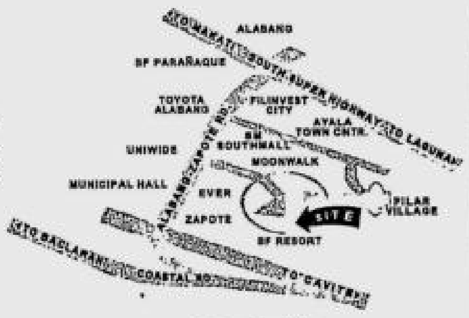

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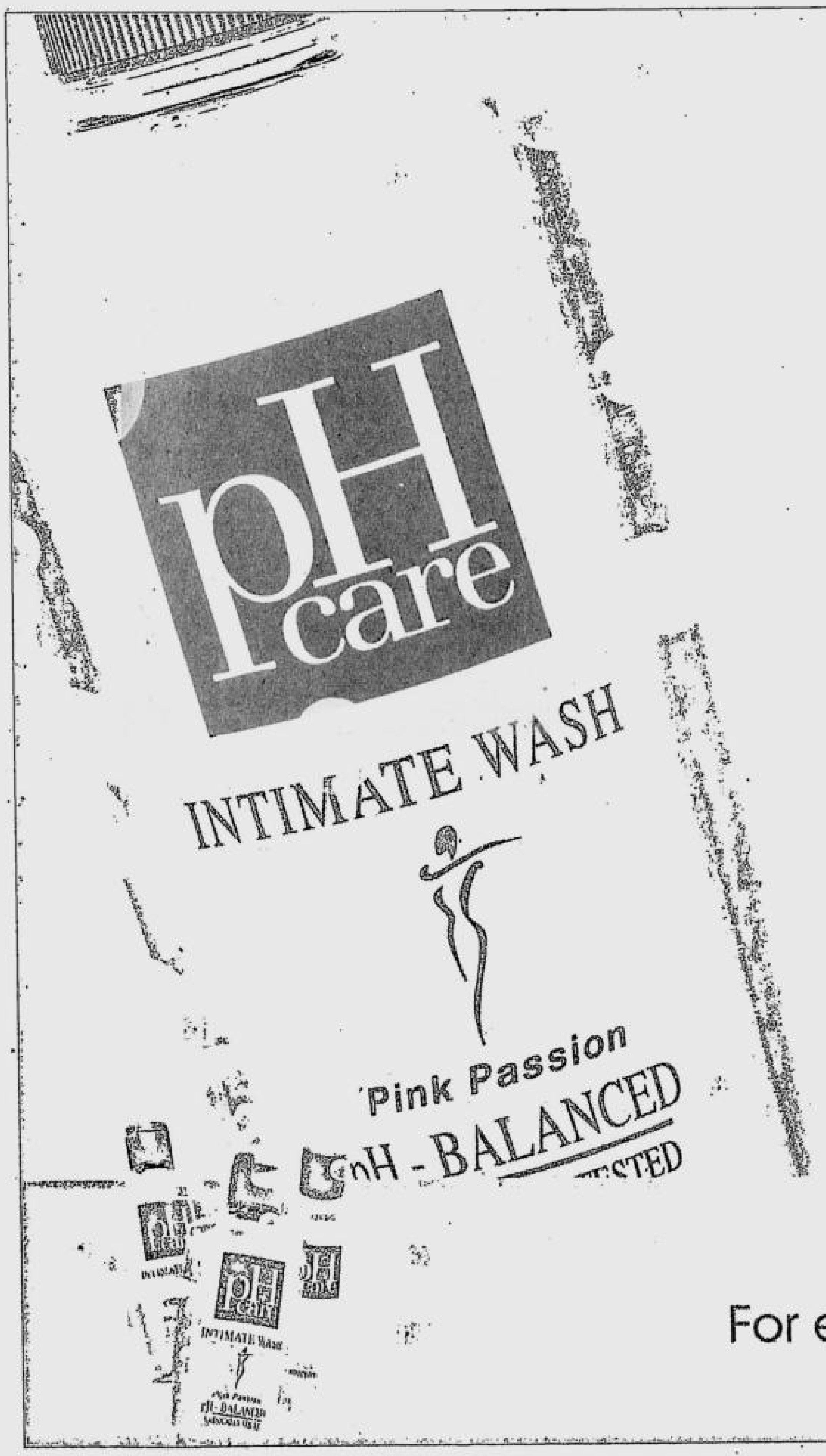

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SC ruling dooms Tancangco, says solon

By Christine Avendaño

COMELEC commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco, who is facing impeachment in Congress, is virtually doomed with the Supreme Court ruling nullifying a contract to computerize the country's voters' registration list.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez and Rep. Monico Puentevella said the SC decision nullifying the contract awarded to Photokina Marketing could result in the impeachment complaint against Tancangco being deemed "sufficient in substance" when the House committee on justice votes on it next month.

"I'm sorry to say this, I have nothing personal against Tancangco, but the (Supreme Court) decision practically hangs her," said Puentevella who was the one who gathered the more than 60 signatures needed to endorse the complaint in the House.

"The decision is a strong message to our colleagues," he said. "The complaint's being sufficient in substance has been answered by this decision."

Among the items in the complaint against Tancangco concerns her alleged "unjustified bias for the Voter's Registration and Information System project that resulted in the awarding of the P6.5-billion contract to Photokina."

On Thursday, the high court ruled that the VRIS contract awarded by the Commission on Elections in September 2000 to Photokina was "illegal and against public policy" because its cost (P6.5 billion) was way beyond the amount appropriated by Congress" which was only P1 billion.

Tancangco was the head of the Comelec modernization committee that endorsed the VRIS project.

"It will be hard for the members (of the House justice committee) not to vote for the complaint as sufficient in substance with the Supreme Court decision," said Gonzalez who added the ruling was "not a good development" for Tancangco.

The House justice committee is expected to vote on the Tancangco complaint on the second week of October. A vote deeming it "sufficient in substance" will mean opening public hearings on the case.

The committee earlier this month found the impeachment complaint "sufficient in form."

Gonzalez said it was unlikely that the ruling would be overturned in the event that the Comelec seeks a reconsideration as all of the SC justices voted against the contract.

Puentevella yesterday asked Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos to replace Tancangco as chair of the modernization committee as he was "pessimistic" that the Comelec modernization program would make any progress if she continues to head it.

The People vs Tancangco Movement last month charged Tancangco with inefficient and gross inexcusable negligence, betrayal of public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution stemming from her performance as Comelec commissioner.

Voters' registration, ID project dead–Abalos

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE SUPREME Court decision junking the P6.5-billion deal between the Commission on Elections and the Photokina consortium spells the "end of the Voters Registration and Identification System," Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos said of the the controversial project that has divided the poll body for years.

While saying that they would abide by the SC ruling as they were "men of laws", the four commissioners who had endorsed the project continued to defend it and even declared that the SC ruling did not mean the end of the VRIS.

The four—Luzviminda Tancangco, Ralph Lantion, Rufino Javier and Mehol Sadain—had endorsed the VRIS project despite strong opposition from two former Comelec chairs.

"The VRIS speaks of cleansing the database, and that was not nullified by the Supreme Court. The decision speaks only of the contract," Tancangco maintained.

Javier noted that the SC decision spoke of a contract that has "not even been entered into by the Comelec." He said the decision did not preempt the Comelec from entering into a deal with Photokina Marketing, which is the lead company in the consortium that won the now voided contract.

Abalos insisted, however, that the SC decision was the "end of (the) VRIS" and that the Comelec would instead work on adopting the validation system, which is similar to the VRIS in that it would also verify voters' records.

"Believing (in the VRIS) is one thing, being able to do it is another. The Supreme Court has gone further by saying that the bid award was illegal," Abalos said.

The Comelec chair called the four commissioners to an afternoon meeting at the Manila Hotel yesterday to "check on them" and see how they felt about the decision.

The two other commissioners—Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason—who had opposed the VRIS along with former Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo, were not invited to the luncheon meeting.

The Comelec is inviting "all interested parties" who are proponents of modernization projects to a public hearing next week.

The National Movement for Free Elections, meanwhile, said the SC ruling would free the P1.2 billion allocated for the VRIS. The money could now be used for the purchase of ballot-counting machines, said Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion Jr. in a statement.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, September 21, 2002
Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

1st Reading: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13
Gospel: Mt 9:9-13

As Jesus moved on, he saw a man named Matthew at his seat in the custom-house, and he said to him, "Follow me." And Matthew got up and followed him. Now it happened, while Jesus was at the table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and other sinners joined Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this they said to his disciples, "Why is it that your master eats with those sinners and tax collectors?"

When Jesus heard this he said, "Healthy people do not need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and find out what this means: What I want is mercy, not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Commentary

It was truly shocking for Jesus' contemporaries, especially for the religious leaders, to find Jesus including a Publican, a double renegade, among his disciples. He was a renegade to the country for collaborating with the Roman oppressors, and more seriously a renegade to religion for consorting himself with unclean Gentiles. But Jesus' message of God's reign cuts across all boundaries. In his acceptance of people's inherent human dignity, he gave them the courage to change their lives, after they had seen an alternative way of looking at themselves and at things. Jesus' acceptance of them enabled sinners to go beyond themselves and change their heart and their lives. Let Jesus touch your life. It will surely make a difference.

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HAS he had enough? NFA chief Anthony Abad in Cabanatuan City on Sept. 2, when the Lady Boss dealt him a third public scolding, which could prove to be the proverbial last straw.

ERIK ARAZAS

Oops, another 'kuryente' at Palace: Did NFA chief quit?

By Dona Pazzibugan

ANOTHER bad case of "did he or did he not resign" hit Malacañang yesterday.

Hours after announcing that National Food Authority administrator Anthony Abad had resigned, Palace officials were scrambling to retract the statement.

At presstime, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye were said to be composing a retraction.

But a well-placed source, who asked not to be named, confirmed that on Sept. 17, Abad submitted his "irrevocable" resignation, citing "personal reasons."

Four days before that, Abad reportedly informed President Macapagal-Arroyo of his decision.

Apparently, the source said, the last straw was a third public dressing-down that Abad and NFA officials got from the President last Sept. 3.

Rumors that Abad had been replaced started circulating a few months ago. Presidential adviser on agriculture Lito Sarmiento, who heads the NFA Council, was said to be eyeing Abad's post.

Abad, Ms Macapagal's former student in Economics at the Ateneo de Manila University, would have been the third administration official to resign in as many months.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. reluctantly quit as foreign secretary in July after Malacañang announced that the President had accepted his resignation.

Last month, Raul Roco left his post as education secretary after Ms Macapagal endorsed the investigation of a graft complaint against him.

In his regular news briefing earlier yesterday, Bunye confirmed that Abad had quit, but said he did not know why.

"We're just waiting for official word from (Executive) Secretary Bert Romulo (for the replacement)," said Bunye.

Unconfirmed talks yesterday pointed to lawyer Arthur Yap as the next NFA secretary.

In a chance interview after the briefing, housing chief Mike Defensor said, "There is no resignation."

There was to be a reshuffle, Defensor said, among the chiefs of the NFA, the Tariff Commission and the Department of Trade and Industry "to maximize performance."

Prior to his appointment as NFA chief last March 6, 2001, Abad was Tarriff commissioner.

Abad, had twice offered to resign in the past, the source said, each time after a public scolding by the President.

The first incident occurred Sept. 7 last year, when Ms Macapagal berated Abad over the phone during a televised press conference.

She had previously discovered 1.2 million sacks of imported rice in a private warehouse in Mabini, Batangas. The rice was reported as smuggled. When Abad said she had been misinformed, the President allegedly lost her temper.

The second incident was said to have occurred in June this year. Ms Macapagal again lost her temper when she did not find Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera rolling stores (deployed by the NFA) in Quezon City.

Finally, the third incident happened last Sept. 2, when the President went "ballistic" in Cabanatuan City.

She flared up at NFA Region 3 officials for failing to show receipts for the dispatch of NFA rice in the province. The officials said they could not immediately produce the receipts since that day was a holiday in Cabanatuan.

Estrada allies say Chavit a 'sacred cow'

By Volt Contreras

THE OMBUDSMAN'S Office was making a "sacred cow" out of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, the government's star witness against jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada, supporters of the deposed leader claimed yesterday.

They were reacting to the Ombudsman's dismissal on Sept. 5 of a plunder complaint filed against Singson and several other provincial officials by the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance (Sisa).

It was the fourth complaint of Sisa against Singson to be junked by anti-graft investigating agency, now headed by Acting Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio.

In a statement yesterday, Estrada spokesperson Raymund Fortun said the latest dismissal was a sign that "he (Gervacio) is still in the race for the post vacated by (retired Ombudsman) Aniano Desierto."

"(He's) probably telling Malacañang that he is their lapdog just like his former boss," Fortun said of Gervacio.

He also said the decision was a "gift" awarded to Singson for testifying against Estrada.

Jose de Jesus, spokesperson for the Ombudsman, denied Fortun's claims. He said the Estrada camp was probably just being "sympathetic" to an ally, Sisa.

Sisa had charged Singson, Ilocos Sur Gov. Deogracias Victor Sabellano and eight other officials with graft and plunder for the allegedly systematic looting of provincial funds totaling close to P1 billion.

But Gervacio said there was no sufficient ground to support "a well-founded belief" that the offense had been committed or that the respondents were probably guilty and should be put on trial.

Fortun accused Gervacio of disregarding Sisa's documentary evidence against Singson et al.

The ex-governor concluded last week his two-month, marathon testimony against Estrada in the P4 billion plunder case.

Last Monday and Wednesday, the anti-graft court heard two of Singson's staff members, including a police officer, recount the minor roles they played as errand boys who picked up and delivered the alleged jueteng payola collections for Estrada.

Paper mill says Pampanga coal plant safe

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TRUST International Paper Corporation (Tipco), one of the country's biggest paper mills, yesterday said its proposed 50-megawatt coal-fired co-generation power plant project in Mabalacat, Pampanga would meet all safety standards set under the Clean Air Act and by the World Bank.

George Chua, Tipco president, made the assurance amid protests by residents, and following a request by the women's group KaisaKa for Sen. Loren Legarda to investigate the project.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez granted the P3 billion project an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) on Sept. 3.

Sonia Soto, national spokesperson, said KaisaKa, along with church leaders and the Bacolor municipal government, had filed the request for an inquiry on behalf of the residents of Barangay Bundagul, where the paper mill is located, and nearby Madapdap resettlement.

In their appeal, the protesters said the power plant, once operational, would expose the residents to risks of diseases and spontaneous abortions.

They assailed Alvarez for "ignoring lessons gleaned by many communities nationwide on the harmful effects of coal-fired power plants."

Chua denied irregularities in the ECC, saying it took Tipco two years to get the approval.

The company, which exports 70 percent of its output, had sought a stable supply of power to sustain production. Its Bundagul complex in Mabalacat currently relies on the National Power Corp.

Mineralized coal, Chua said, would produce less emissions than the more expensive bunker fuel, Napocor's main material.

He said the coal-fluidized bed technology that Tipco would employ was the same one used in the United States, where coal is the primary fuel for generating electricity.

Soto argued, citing a study by the environmental group Greenpeace that says cadmium from burnt coal is listed by the US Environmental Protection Agency as a toxic heavy metal responsible for a wide range of ailments.

The Greenpeace study also says coal stations release nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide that cause acid rains, and that mercury, which coal stations also emit, can travel up to 960 km from the plant.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

MERCANTILE LAW/COMMERCIAL LAW (TRANSPORTATION LAW)—Diligence of a common carrier—Common barriers, from the nature of their business and for reasons of public policy, are mandated to observe extraordinary diligence in the vigilance over the goods and for the safety of the passengers transported by them. Owing to this high degree of diligence required of them, common carriers, as a general rule, are presumed to have been at fault or negligence if the goods transported by them are lost, destroyed or if the same deteriorated. However, this presumption of fault or negligence does not arise in the cases enumerated under Article 1734 of the Civil Code. In order that a common carrier may be absolved from liability where the loss, destruction or deterioration of the goods is due to a natural disaster or calamity, it must further be shown that such natural disaster or calamity was the proximate and only cause of the loss, there must be "an entire exclusion of human agency from the cause of the injury or the loss." Moreover, even in cases where the natural disaster is the proximate and only cause of the loss, a common carrier is still required to exercise due diligence to prevent or minimize loss before, during and after the occurrence of the natural disaster, for it to be exempt from liability under the law for the loss of the goods. If a common carrier fails to exercise due diligence—or that ordinary care which the circumstances of the particular case demand—to preserve and protect the goods carried by it on the occasion of a natural disaster, it will be deemed to have been negligence, and the loss will not be considered as having been due to a natural disaster under Article 1734(1).[Justice Kapunan, First Division, Philippine American General Insurance Co., Inc. v. MGG Marine Services, Inc., G.R. No. 135645, March 8, 2002]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

US schools prefer Filipino teachers

FILIPINOS currently rank among the highest in America's search for grade school and high school teachers to fill a huge shortage in classroom instructors. For instance, Texas needs some 800 Filipino teachers and has launched an intensive recruitment drive. Applicants must be a BA or BS degree graduate from any accredited college or university with a GPA of 2.5, and with at least two years teaching or tutorial experience.

Teachers who pass the Functional Academic Skills Test (FAST) and succeeding interviews with Texas school district officials will be processed for working visas. FAST is one ofTeExas' qualifying exams for professional educators.

Starting salaries are at an average of $36,000 per annum. Teachers will be contracted to teach elementary and secondary schools for careers in special subjects like Math, Science, Special Education and Reading. An additional benefit is the exemption from paying income taxes on the first two years of their employment.

JS Contractor Inc. (JSC) and Texas-based Omni Consortium Inc./Multicultural Professional Limited Liability Co. (MPLLLC) invite Filipino teachers for a free orientation in preparation for FAST exams starting today, Sept. 21 and on Sept. 22, 9 a.m. at the JS Contractor Bldg., 423 Magallanes St., Intramuros, Manila (527-5536 or 301-0008). Orientations will also be held in Cebu on Sept. 28 and 29, 1 p.m. at the Social Hall of the Capitol Building (254-6145 or 255-4330).

GMA asks taipans: Help build houses

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday asked the Philippines' wealthy Chinese-Filipino businessmen to help the government build low-cost homes to boost domestic demand amid an uncertain external outlook, aides said.

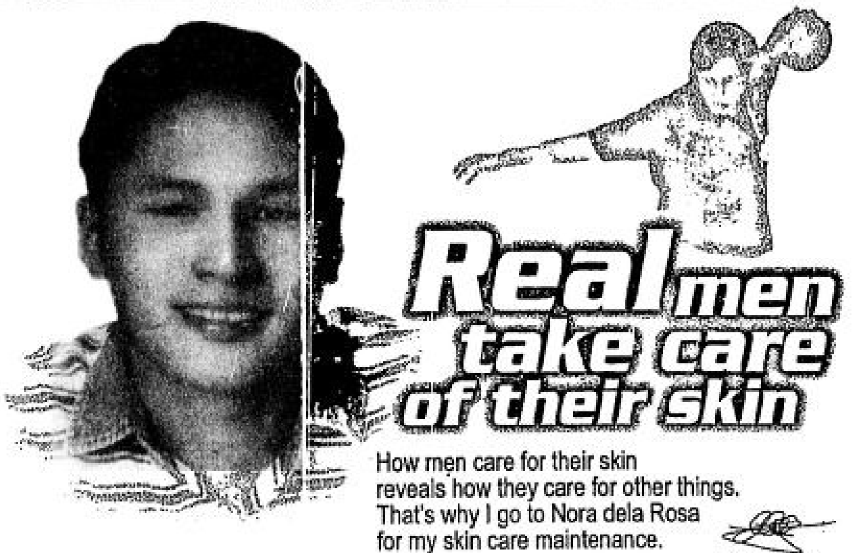
Ms Macapagal invited the so-called "taipans" to a luncheon meeting at Malacañang Palace and laid out the case that the government needed their help to "protect the economy from a potential slowdown outside the Philippines," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said.

Philippine exports plunged by more than 15 percent last year amid a US and Japanese recessions, and officials are projecting a mere four percent improvement this year.

The government has also been fighting to contain a ballooning budget deficit, limiting the amount of money it can spend on infrastructure projects.

The President offered joint ventures with the big businessmen using idle, state-owned properties around Manila and elsewhere as equity, with the businessmen to be asked to build homes for soldiers, police and government employees in them, Camacho told a news conference.

Housing Secretary Mike Defensor said that "the sky is the limit" as far as the proposed housing units are concerned, saying they would complement the government's own program to build low-cost homes. *AFP*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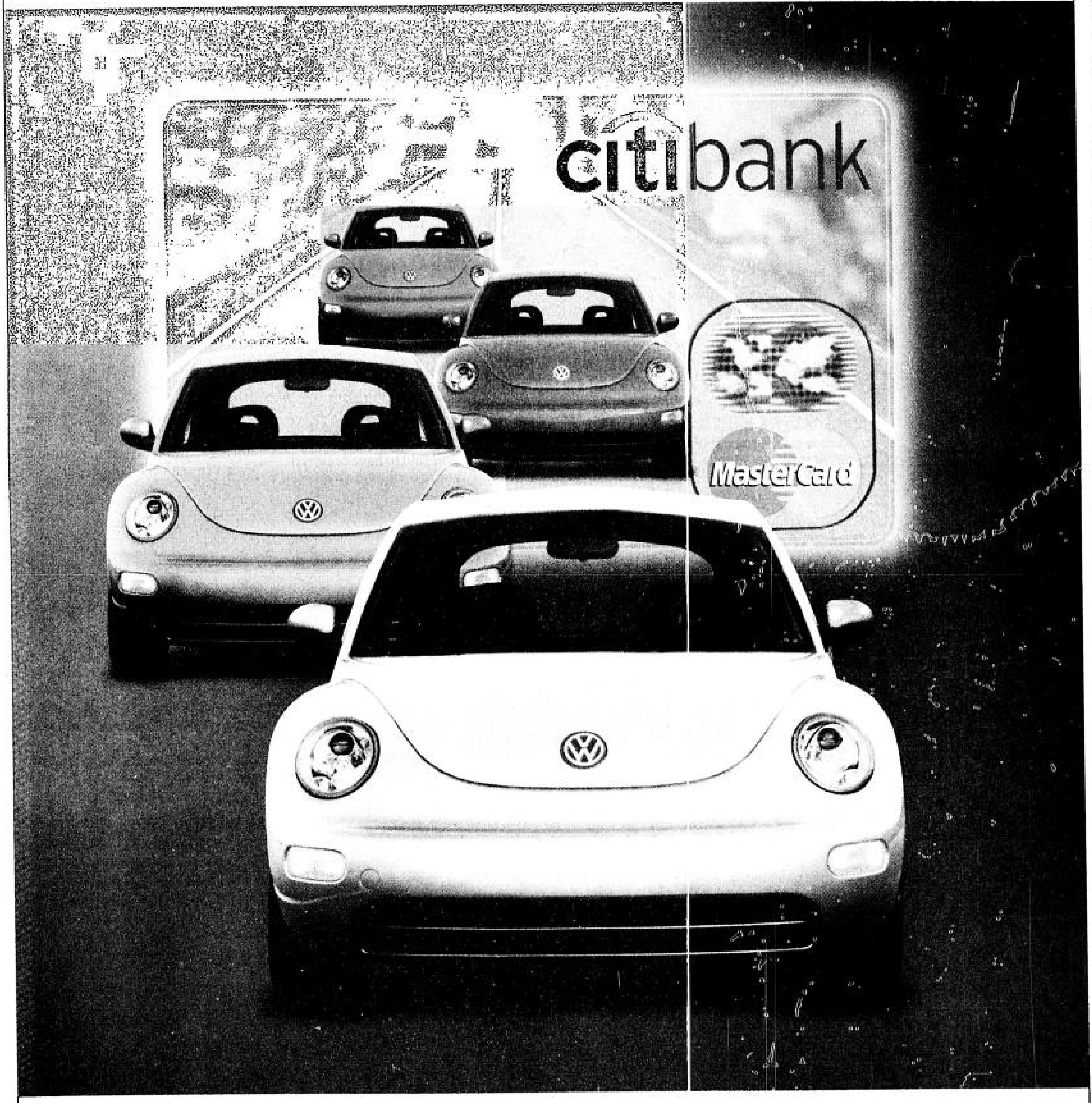

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Mike A on road scam: What? Me again?

From page A1

hat "honor and delicadeza dictate that officials of the Public Estates Authority (PEA) and Government Service Insurance System (GSIS)" should go on leave to give investigators a free hand in probing into the controversy.

"That is the most honorable thing for them to do. The ones involved must not be around during the investigation," Flavier added.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said he was already preparing a resolution to direct the Senate blue ribbon committee to conduct a probe on the allegations of Tagud who had earlier charged that construction costs for the 5.1-km asphalt highway was overpriced by P600 million.

He specifically referred to the 2.3-kilometer stretch of the road built by JD Legaspi Construction.

President Macapagal-Arroyo the other day asked PEA and GSIS officials to explain their respective agencies' complicity in the "Road to Perdition" scam.

PRES. D. MACAPAGAL BLVD.

THE BOULEVARD to corruption may have been paved with good intentions. ERIK ARAZAS

Variation orders

Yesterday, Tagud added to his allegations, saying there were at least P210 million worth of "variations" in the original P584.3-million contract awarded to the Legaspi firm.

He said the cost adjustments were approved by the new PEA board starting in 2001 without the requisite approval of the President.

A P145-million cost adjustment was approved by the board headed by PEA Chair Ernest Villareal in its meeting of Aug. 13, where Tagud was outvoted 6-1.

PEA deputy general manager Manuel Berina Jr. told the INQUIRER that the total contract price of Legaspi to date stands at P794.9 million. This was P210.6 million more than the P584.3 million originally awarded to the company in 1999 during the Estrada administration.

The cost adjustments included P79.3 million "overruns" which he said were brought about by changes in the quantities of material used in constructing the 2.3-km portion assigned to Legaspi.

Shoemart and DM Wenceslao Consortium built the rest of the road under separate joint venture agreements with PEA. They were to be paid in reclaimed land in the area being developed into "Bay City."

Berina said the board approved Variation Order No. 2 for "additional works" amounting to P126.4 million.

But PEA Director Rodolfo Tuazon said variations take the form of change orders, extra work and supplemental contracts after the original contract has been awarded.

He said prices and quantities change between the time of the bidding and the implementation.

Variation Order No. 4 involved P4.7 million while VO No. 1 involved realignments that did not result in any additional cost.

Berina said VO No. 3 had not been approved by the board.

Tagud told the INQUIRER that VO 3 involved the landscaping of the 5.1-km road, which runs parallel to Roxas Boulevard, for P13 million.

Tagud said the job was given to Legaspi even if the construction firm was not a landscaper. There was no bidding for this job, he said.

"And if you look at the plants there, you wouldn't believe they cost P13 million," Tagud said.

Political opposition

Arroyo accused the political opposition of engaging in a concerted effort to drag him into alleged scams.

"The opposition has been engaged in an early campaign for 2004," Arroyo said in a phone interview. "What they are actually after is (President) Gloria (Macapagal-Arroyo) and they're trying to get her by keeping on hitting me."

Published reports claim that PEA Chair Ernest Villareal is an incorporator of the Bigkis Pinoy Foundation, a group identified with Arroyo. The same reports claim that Ephraim Genuino, another close Arroyo friend and now chair of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., was president of Bigkis Pinoy.

But Arroyo said he was not even a member of Bigkis Pinoy.

While he said he knows Villareal, Arroyo said: "I don't talk to him about anything."

Arroyo also noted that in two radio interviews yesterday, Tagud himself said that the First Gentleman did not have anything to do with the alleged anomalies.

"I received calls from two radio stations informing me of Tagud's statements," Arroyo said. "What we have here are dirty tricks being pulled off by the opposition."

"This is just too much," he said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye echoed Arroyo's complaint.

"I believe that they think that if they hit the First Gentleman often enough, it will have an impact on the President," Bunye said. "So far they have not been successful."

"Their strategy is to keep repeating the lies, thinking that if repeated often enough this would have the semblance of truth," he added.

Ang and Tagud were both guests at the 67th birthday party of former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

According to witnesses, Dante, who had just arrived from Hong Kong, was jovially table-hopping when he found himself at the table of Jose "Pepe" Sarmiento, who served as administrator of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

The two were friends from their PDP-Laban days in the 1980s.

Sarmiento had brought with him another friend: Tagud.

Witnesses said that when Sarmiento introduced Tagud to Ang, the publicist appeared perplexed. So Sarmiento added, "He's the guy in the INQUIRER banner headline."

Ang's face fell, and he suddenly was tongue-tied.

But Tagud was just as surprised. "I didn't know him. It was a surprise," he told INQ7.net.

"Oh, so you also live in BF Resort, that's all that we could say to each other," he continued.

"Technically, we didn't talk to each other," Tagud continued. He said it was Sarmiento who did the talking.

"Pepe said that there was nothing political in the exposé. That I am not here to attack the person of the President," Tagud said. "Dante did not react."

The other guests also kept the three to themselves, according to witnesses. After 15 minutes, Ang excused himself and went to the other tables.

The party was held in the ancestral home of Don Pedro Cojuangco, an older brother of Peping and former President Corazon Aquino. *With reports from Volt Contreras, Gerald Lacuarta; and Fe B. Zamora, INQ7.net*

CHINESE envoy, Wang Chungui said Perez lost his temper first. EDWIN BACASMAS

PEREZ said the envoy was trying to bully him. ROGER CARPIO

Perez wants Chinese envoy ...

From page A1

sador had shouted at him and pounded his fist on Perez's desk in fury during the argument.

"I have to ask (Foreign Secretary Blas Ople) to declare the Chinese ambassador persona non grata because of his attitude. I was telling the ambassador that he cannot bully an official of the government," Perez said.

But the Department of Foreign Affairs said late yesterday that it was not inclined to declare Wang persona non grata.

And a source at the Chinese Embassy said it was Perez who lost his temper first. The embassy is reportedly preparing a note verbale to formally protest Perez's alleged actuation.

"Secretary Perez rudely wanted to finish the discussion but the ambassador said he was not yet done explaining (his position)," the embassy official said.

Wang and embassy spokesperson Wang Luo were unavailable for comment.

Extreme measure

DFA Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin said declaring Wang persona non grata was a rather "extreme measure."

"(I)t will not be resorted to unless the reason...is a serious one," Ebdalin said.

"Declaring the Chinese ambassador persona non grata would seriously affect Philippine-China relations," he added.

Another DFA official said the measure is uncalled for since Beijing and Manila enjoy good bilateral relations.

Chinese National People's Congress chair Li Peng, China's second highest official, had just recently wrapped up a visit to the country during which Wang and Perez had a cordial meeting.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said he was not aware of the incident. But he remarked that if the reports were true, "then the timing doesn't look very good," particularly since it comes just after Li's visit.

First time

"So far, we haven't declared a diplomat persona non grata and it hasn't been done to us. We have to weigh what happened and its probable effect, otherwise it would be a grave mistake," the DFA official said.

During their previous meeting, Perez said Wang acceded to the DOJ's position that the 122 fishermen must plead guilty to charges of poaching and violation of the Endangered Species Law and pay the corresponding fines before they can be released.

Yesterday, Perez said Wang sang a different tune.

He said Wang started raising his voice when they were discussing the issue of the Chinese poachers. Perez said he left the conference table and went to his desk which was nearby.

He said he told Wang: "If that is your behavior, then I think there is nothing more we can talk about."

Mooncake

Wang, he said, stood up, followed him to to his desk and pounded his fist on the desk. The envoy, Perez said, reminded him that he even brought a Chinese mooncake in observance of the Chinese autumn moon celebration.

He said Wang "kept on pounding on my table and telling me that he could not understand why" the Philippine government could not just release the fishermen without them having to plead guilty and pay the fines.

Wang also demanded an explanation from Perez why the Chinese were being required to pay their Filipino lawyers.

Perez answered back, saying that the lawyers were private counsels and were not from the Public Attorney's Office.

The envoy, Perez said, kept saying "I cannot understand your laws."

"(T)he ambassador did not want to listen to my explanation and he shouted at me," Perez said. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan and AFP*

Militarization

From page A1

secretary) was unprecedented, because in those days retired generals stayed retired. Cimatu's did not even raise eyebrows.

The difference can be explained by the expanded role of the military in the life of the nation. It is a role that Marcos himself fashioned, and it is one that persists to this day despite the renewed emphasis on civilian supremacy in the post-Marcos Constitution.

An American graduate student interviewing military officials in 1974, the second full year of martial law, caught the mood right: Harold Maynard found several generals who were bold enough to tell him that "martial law had given the AFP new confidence in its own ability to run the government."

Entitlement

This sense of entitlement directly led to the seven coup attempts that rocked the Aquino administration in the late 1980s. But during the martial law era, it was fed by the dramatic expansion in the military's budget, size and importance.

In "Filipino Politics: Development and Decay," author David Wurfe writes that between 1972, when martial law was declared, and 1977, the national defense budget "grew nearly tenfold"—from P608 million to P5.3 billion.

"In constant dollars that budget increased ... much more rapidly than elsewhere in Southeast Asia," Wurfe writes.

The dramatic rise in the military budget was mirrored in the expansion of the number of troops. In the 1960s, combined military forces were at the 35,000 level. "By 1971 the figure had climbed to 53,000," Wurfel writes. "But by 1974 the Armed Forces neared the 100,000 mark, and by 1976 were over 113,000."

But Marcos did not only increase the size of the AFP (he "integrated" the national police and the Philippine Constabulary, wresting control of police forces from local politicians in the process). As early as his first term (1966-1969), he had already capitalized on "civil-military relations," by conscripting more soldiers to build roads and bridges.

The idea was simple and popular: The military was now "a force for development."

But development took on a new meaning after martial law was declared. In 1974, Marcos told the Philippine Military Academy that it was the premier military school's responsibility to "train soldiers not only in the art of war but also in the functions and affairs of civil government."

The consequences of that directive can be felt to this day.

Waltzing with Marcos

In a complicated dance, Marcos during his 20 years in power both held the military's hand and kept his partner assiduously off balance.

He changed the patronage system that had governed the relationship between civilian politicians and military officials. In the old dispensation, Wurfel notes, "congressional patrons, flaunting their control over budget and promotions, required corporals as personal servants, while others tried to protect their constituents against high-handed military tactics."

When military rule was in place, however, the terms of patronage changed. "The politician had held office as a result of popular election and through that office controlled military appointments and promotions; now, lacking his former legitimacy, he relied heavily on the military to maintain him in power," Wurfel writes.

The result was inevitable: "All officers were becoming enmeshed more deeply in increasingly centralized patronage networks." Also: "Many senior officers (became) addicted to the benefits of growing unofficial incomes."

But Marcos also encouraged factionalism in the military service. By the time opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr. was assassinated in 1983, the primary rivalry was apparent: the professionals in the service led by Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos, a West Point graduate and longtime chief of the PC, against the Marcos loyalists led by Gen. Fabian Ver, AFP chief of staff.

But there were other pressure points that Marcos used. He intervened heavily in the military's promotions system, retiring some officers and extending the term of others, until he finally created a military service that was largely manned by commanders who were personally beholden to him or could be replaced in an instant. In May 1978, for example, Marcos retired 13 generals and advised 27 others that they were next on the list. But at the same time, he extended the term of seven generals who had passed retirement age.

Marcos' waltz allowed him to exercise control over the military to an extent greater than any commander-in-chief before or after him. Maynard, a source whom Wurfel relied on heavily, quotes the dictator as telling the AFP that the "bonds that link the presidency and the Armed Forces ... are ... the greatest single factor for stability."

Courtship

Despite the democratic credentials of Marcos' successors, that key lesson has not been lost on Malacañang.

The appointment of retired military officers to civilian positions has often been justified in terms of efficiency. But the experience under Marcos is clear: It is a gauge of the unceasing courtship the chief executive pays the military.

Judged by that measure, it is clear that the post-Marcos presidents have in fact learned the critical lesson all too well.

The Aquino administration appointed at least 10 generals to various offices—not least Ramos himself, who served as defense secretary. The Ramos administration named over 50 retired officers to government posts, including former AFP chief Lisandro Abadia, while President Joseph Estrada appointed 13 colonels and generals.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has already named 16, including four-star police general Leandro Mendoza as transportation secretary, and former national police chief Roberto Lastimoso as head of the Land Transportation Office.

Cimatu's appointment adds one more.

36% of Meralco ...

From page A1

shown that the Lopez family owns "around 20 percent" of Meralco while the government has a "beneficial interest of 24 percent."

What caught the committee's attention, however, is the 36.9 percent owned by certain "PCD nominee corporations."

PCD is Philippine Central Depository Inc.

According to Arroyo, "PCD nominee corporations" are holding companies of street shares which are owned by investors in the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Arroyo has summoned PSE president Ernest Leung to the next hearing on Tuesday.

"It is quite a puzzle that 36 percent of Meralco is owned by unknown persons," Arroyo said.

A Senate observer pointed out that if the government already owned 24 percent of Meralco, it was ironic that it was not able to bring down the cost of the purchased power adjustment (PPA) fee for power supplied by Meralco.

"All this time, the government has seemed to have a hard time bringing down the PPA when, in fact, it has four seats in Meralco to do just that," the Senate source said.

The main bulk of the government's 24 percent stake in Meralco comes from the Social Security System (3.9 percent), government sequestered shares (4.8 percent), Land Bank of the Philippines through the Asset Privatization Trust (2.36 percent) and on its own (2.34 percent).

127M child laborers in Asia–ADB

ELIMINATING child labor and improving labor standards would ensure a better economic future for developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region, experts said on Friday.

The region has an estimated 127 million child laborers, ages 5-14, who are deprived of education and exposed to health hazards, the Asian Development Bank said at the end of a two-day workshop on improving labor standards it hosted jointly with the International Labor Organization.

"Those numbers are unacceptable," said Isabel Ortiz, a senior social economist with the bank.

Ortiz said absence from school, the demands of work and poor nutrition due to poverty hamper child workers' intellectual growth and perpetuate a "circle of poverty."

"In a way, you are condemning a child to lesser development for life, and you are condemning a country also to lesser development," Ortiz added.

Brahm Prakash, director of the ADB's poverty reduction and social development unit, said putting children to work will "underprepare the human capital" because youths are pushed into the labor market with few skills, making them the first to suffer from international economic volatility.

"Human capital increase gets stunted if you put a child in a bad job right from the beginning rather than educating, bringing a healthy person out of it and then having a much better reward in the middle and the later life," he said.

Lee Swepston, chief of equality and employment branch at the ILO, said as many as 20 million children in the region are in "bonded labor" or slavery, and many are forced to work in prostitution, drug trafficking and other illegal activities.

"There may be economic reasons that push children into work, into economic activities, but those worst forms are unacceptable in any circumstances," he said.

However, purely repressive measures to stop child labor won't help either because children will just be pushed farther into "more unacceptable" jobs, he said.

"It has to be supplemented by income replacement, by income generation for the families, by additional schooling," he said. "Stopping children from working sounds great. Stop there and you've done harm."

The ADB said in a statement that there was "unanimous consensus" among workshop participants that violations of labor standards result in lower productivity. *AP*

Mild quake jolts Metro, S. Luzon

AN EARTHQUAKE measuring 3.4 on the Richter scale shook Metro Manila and other major cities oyesterday, government seismologists said.

There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties from the quake which struck at 7:56 a.m. (2356 GMT Thursday), the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said.

The quake was tectonic in origin and had its epicenter just off the northern coast of the island of Mindoro, Phivolcs said.

It was most strongly felt in the Mindoro resort town of Puerto Lipa and Batangas cities in Batangas, as well as other towns just outside Manila.

Quakes of magnitudes between five and six can cause minor damage. *AFP*

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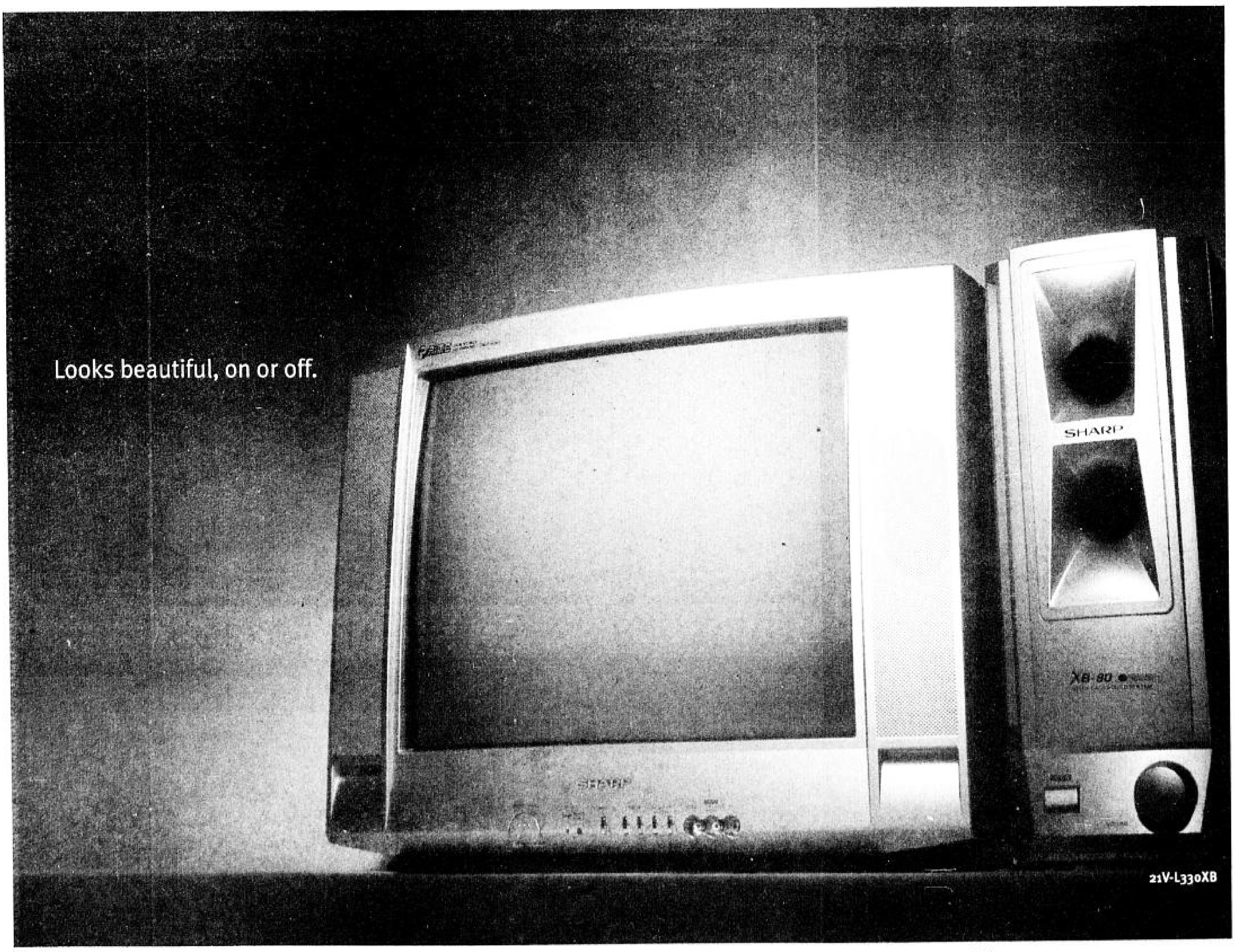

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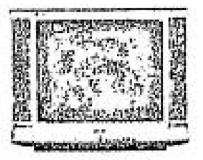
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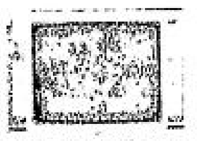
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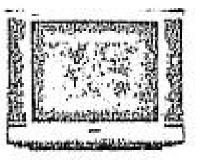
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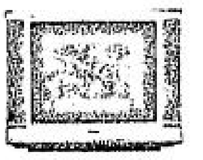
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2002

OPINION

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EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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To Hell and back

EDITORIAL

THIRTY years and a generation later, the declaration of martial law on Sept. 21, 1972 has lost none of its historic gravity. It remains a guidepost in the nation's chronicle. It constitutes a convenient division between the past and the present, between the past and the future. Depending on the bias of the historian, it represents the threshold to Paradise or Hell.

More likely Hell. If there's any historic turning point that should represent the end of the nation's innocence, it must be martial law. It represents the fall of our politics. From then on, it would be one long slide downwards, much like Cain slaying Abel and God scorching Sodom and Gomorrah.

Who can deny that the Philippines has been affected by the original sin of martial law? The key historic guideposts in our history in the last quarter of a century—and to some extent, the history of the world—are tied to the umbilical cord of martial law. Would the assassination of Ninoy Aquino, whose funeral was the largest in history, have been possible without martial law? Would the 1986 Edsa Revolution, which triggered the tide of pro-democracy revolutions from South Korea to Poland, have been possible without it? Would the resilience of the communist underground movement—the only one remaining in the world—have been as admirable without martial law? Even the Edsas of 2001 would have been inconceivable without 1972.

The major turning points in Philippine economic history also find their locus in martial law. Marcos used martial law to emasculate the oligarchs who perpetuated the vassalage and economic slavery of a vanished era. But he used the same protectionist logic of the oligarchy in order to establish industries that were inevitably subverted by the corruption and inefficiency that usually attend state-controlled enterprises.

Of course, Marcos created his own oligarchs—the cronies who, judging from their current social ubiquity and the sheen of the blue-chip companies they continue to hold, have proved to be more adept at perpetuating themselves than the real McCoy.

Martial law destroyed the nascent (some say infantile) democracy that issued from American colonization. Despite the imperfections, the rigors of democracy worked for a time in the Philippines. When Marcos declared martial law, he was doing so in the belief that he was saving democracy.

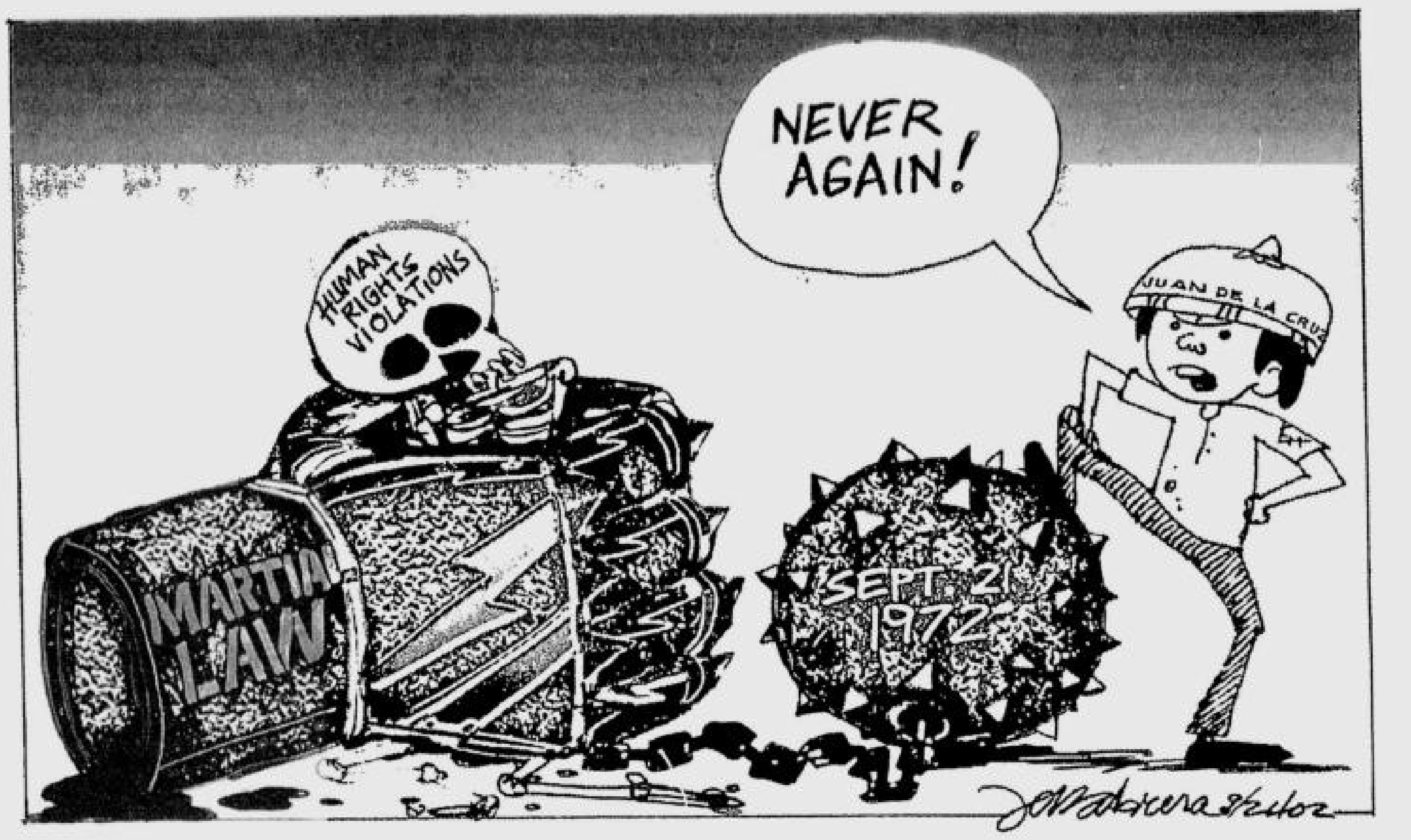
Still, others say that martial law was inevitable in the twisted context of Philippine democracy, with its special interests masquerading as democratic players, its nepotism and patronage, its dynastic politics, its endemic corruption and incompetence. That it was only a matter of time before the same ideal and institution gave birth to the Frankenstein monster that was martial law.

The monster has spawned little monsters. Despite the professionalization of the military, the barracks still incline toward the megalomania of a junta. Despite the creation of a police "national in scope and civilian in character" (as provided for by the 1987 Constitution), the police seem not to have shed off the character they acquired when they were under the Philippine Constabulary: trigger-happy, abusive and Gestapo-like. If politicians before martial law were intellectually competent and economically powerful, the politicians since martial law have been intellectual lemons and even more economically covetous.

The victims of martial law have been numerous. The dissidents and other people of conscience have been mauled, maimed and murdered; they lie strewn or buried in the fields of hate, whole or dismembered, found or left to the mercy of mud and maggots. The economic victims are more numerous, wandering as the railroad tracks in whose corners they pitch tents.

It seems propitious that on this 30th anniversary of the declaration of martial law, the land is ruled by the daughter of Marcos' immediate predecessor, Diosdado Macapagal. The Poor Boy from Lubao has lately enjoyed historical rehabilitation, not only because his daughter has become President, but because his successor had so botched everything up that everything that came before him seemed like Paradise.

But what the nation now seeks is a Paradise that is a clear break from the horrors of martial law. Alas, it seems that even the recent turning points in our history are taking us back to the same Inferno.



Letters from readers

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

A READER of this column has again asked for my legal opinion on a case he is personally pleading before the Supreme Court as a pauper litigant. He has enclosed with his letter voluminous copies of the pertinent papers, including his latest motion for reconsideration of the resolution of the Supreme Court denying his petition for certiorari against the Court of Appeals. Fidel D. Banzon, from Cebu City, also prays the Supreme Court to appoint me as an *amicus curae*.

Banzon had earlier sent me an even thicker letter requesting my opinion on another case that had also been denied for procedural lapses. I had also not acted upon it for the reasons I have repeatedly explained in this column. I am now retired and do not practice anymore; besides, this is not a legal advice column. When persons come to me for legal opinion or representation, I simply refer them to any one of my three lawyer-sons or suggest that they go to the Public Attorney's Office under the Department of Justice or to the IBP. There are also private legal assistance organizations like the CLASP.

Some persons with retained counsel also write me to explain their cases and if they are being correctly handled by their lawyers. Please! This is the kind of letter I definitely do not entertain because it not only wastes my time and, worse, asks me to violate legal ethics. They expect me to interfere with, and possibly even criticize, my brother or sister lawyers.

Reacting to my article on the separation of Church and State, one reader called me an apologist for the Catholic Church for not attacking Cardinal Sin's acceptance of a P1 million donation from Mike Arroyo. I write what I please, not what this sorehead pleases; in fact, even the INQUIRER does not dictate what I should or should not write about. I will also have him know that I am not a practicing Catholic, nor have I apologized for but on the contrary have often criticized that religious group.

I was particularly riled by that letter sent by the director of the Center for Creative Writing and Studies of a prestigious university in Manila inviting me to be a guest lecturer on "Writing in the Legal Profession." I was disposed to accept the invitation until I read the last sentence of the letter, which sternly instructed me, as if I were one of her pupils: "Be prepared to take part in a panel discussion with members of the legal profession and the academic community as reactors." No, ma'am, not to a Ph.D. who cannot even write a polite request.

There are letters that deserve to be answered but are not, simply because I am already retired and no longer have a staff to help me. Now I type, address and mail my letters myself, where before I only dictated them and left my secretary to take care of the rest. What I now do instead is to reply to some of such letters in this column, like the one asking me for the citations of the cases I mentioned in my article on the right to know. They are Valmonte v. Belmonte, 170 SCRA 256, and Legaspi v. Civil Service Commission, 150 SCRA 530.

Roberto R. Rejano sent me a position paper on the consumer charges of the Maynilad Water Services and asks me to study if it has legal basis. I regret, dear sir, that I must decline, for the reasons I am repeating in this article. Still, I want to express admiration for your civic spirit, which is sadly wanting in many of us these days. It is not so, fortunately, in RTC Executive Judge Vicente L. Yap of Pasay City, who shared my observations on the curious report that no criminal charges have been filed against a society matron for the killing of a nurse in the suspect's car.

The letter sent to me by my good friend, former Solicitor General Francisco I. Chavez, agrees that there is really a need to cleanse our courts and restore public faith in the judiciary as the ultimate defender of the rule of law. For this purpose, he has organized Operation Clean Hands "to assert and maintain the purity of the law, integrity of the legal profession and the essence of true justice." He says he wrote to 20 law firms inviting them to join the movement, but only 10 of them have accepted; this is an indication, he observes wryly, of the others' "complacent conformity to the corrupted state of the judiciary."

Paul Mortel, a regular correspondent, complains that of the 15 congressmen he wrote to last May, only two replied. The others violated RA 6713, better known as the Code of Official Conduct, which requires government officials to reply to letters sent to them by the public. Mortel says he has received more courteous attention from the White House and 10 Downing Street than his own boorish legislators. Perhaps they just ignored him because he was not their constituent although they are national officials accountable to the entire electorate.

Significantly, those who replied to his letter were Rep. Alfonso V. Umali from Oriental Mindoro and Rep. J.R. Nereus O. Acosta from faroff Bukidnon. Our letter-writer is from Marikina City in Metro Manila.

I express my apologies to those I have not been able to answer directly or at least through this column. I just do not have the time or the clerical help to reply to each of them, especially those conveying friendly compliments that I appreciate and cherish though undeserved. I welcome all your letters, including the critical and even abusive, because, as Samuel Johnson said, "I would rather be attacked than unnoticed."

Enough

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

TEXT from Marlene D. Santos of Las Piñas: "Picture *ni* GMA a la MIB *pinapalaki na naman ng mga walang magawa parang yung galunggong pinalaki din* (The picture of GMA a la Men In Black has been blown out of proportion by those who have nothing to do, just as they did with the *galunggong* issue). And from Derick of Malolos: "We should try to lighten up *yung* MIB pose *nila* GMA. Let's focus on the problems *na lang*" (no translation necessary).

I agree with Marlene and Derick, whom I don't know.

Sure, the President makes a very large and attractive target, and sure, criticizing her has become a favorite pastime for her political rivals (which is to be expected), but also for business people and civil society. It is quite de rigueur to indulge in that pastime, and I have done so. But I draw the line on getting on her case about a computer-enhanced picture or the price of fish in the market. That is carrying things a little too far.

Something else about the pastime has begun to grate on my nerves. President Macapagal-Arroyo is so often chastised for "too much politicking" or being "fixated with 2004," or words to that effect, that it has become almost a mantra with analysts and commentators. One would think it is only the President who is guilty of this.

Let us at least all accept that every single politician, without exception, is thinking of 2004. What is more, let us at least all accept that most everyone else is also thinking and talking about 2004—or that it is a topic which would unfailingly make lagging conversations come alive: candidates, combinations, chances.

If this were a disease, it would be safe to say that all are probably infected. So the charge of "too much politicking" can and should be hurled against us, too. What was that about the mote in people's eyes?

But since she is, for better or for worse, the leader of our country, how about giving the President a break once in a while, instead of putting her in a damned-if-she-does-and-damned-if-she-doesn't situation all the time?

Or if giving her a break is too much to ask (after all, if she wants to be in the kitchen, she should be able to stand the heat), how about just noting some of the appointments she has made that cannot be said to have a partisan political motive but which were done because the appointees were clearly the best persons for the job?

There is Emy Boncodin, of budget. And Pat Sto. Tomas of labor. Lito Camacho of finance. Dante Canlas of Neda. Dinky Soliman of social welfare. None of these officials have any political clout, if you will. She appointed them anyway.

For that matter, if all she had was an eye for 2004, she would never have appointed Raul Roco to education. It was clear from the word go that he was a potential rival.

As 2004 draws closer, three of her recent appointments are worth noting: Bayani Fernando to the MMDA, Edilberto "DJ" de Jesus to education, and Willy Parayno to the BIR. DJ and Willy have no political constituencies to speak of. Fernando may be a byword in Marikina, but that city accounts for less than one-half of one percent of the total Philippine population. But they all have solid reputations, and, if BF is any indication, they will do extremely well by the country. Doesn't the President deserve even just a little pat on the back for these appointments?

And while on the subject of unjustified criticism, "coming from nowhere" or "out of the blue" comes to mind if one has to describe how the name of the President's spouse, Mike Arroyo, crops up in connection with recently uncovered payola scandals. Of course, the man is also a natural (and very large) target for anyone wanting to hurt the President for one reason or another, but when his name is dragged in just for the heck of it, as it were, one too must draw the line.

Take the Piatco deal. The contracts and two of three supplemental agreements were entered into during the Ramos and Estrada administrations. Only the third supplemental agreement was entered into during the Macapagal administration, and it has not been approved yet, nor have the first two, which unfortunately seem to have been carried out without the requisite approvals.

Not only that, it was President Macapagal who tasked Presidential Adviser Gloria Tan Climaco with going over the Piatco deal with a fine-tooth comb, and the latter cannot be accused of favoring Piatco. Therefore, it would be a logical assumption, if not conclusion, that the Macapagal administration doesn't have any close links with Piatco or the Chengs.

Yet, when the $2.1-million fee that was paid by Piatco to "consultant" Alfonso Liongson purportedly for public relations services hit the headlines, the name of Mike Arroyo almost automatically came out. Since Liongson was not known for his public relations skills, or for that matter for any expertise that would merit a $4-million contract, the conclusion was immediately drawn that he must be merely a front.

For whom? Well of course it must be Mike Arroyo. Why of course? one asks. And one is rewarded with a blank stare, as in, duh—who else? And that's it for proof.

Or how about this latest Public Estates Authority scandal (the whistle-blower looks like another competent appointee)? No sooner does it erupt, and Mike Arroyo's name is dragged in willy-nilly. It matters not that the strongest link to him seems to be that the road is named after his father-in-law.

Enough, already.

Recall vs Antique gov hard to justify

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IN RECENT columns, I have noted that the recall mechanism for elected local officials can be a boon to the people, as it allows them to change erring public officials earlier than their term's end, but it is also open to abuse by unscrupulous politicians. The rise in the number of recall cases has made legislators and jurists realize that this mechanism needs a long and hard second look, before it causes more political instability.

* * *

I have written about the recall effort against Puerto Princesa Mayor Dennis Socrates and the fraudulent way the resolution was passed by barangay chairmen close to another politician. Now come reports that Antique Gov. Sally Zaldivar-Perez is being targeted for recall by the political henchmen of Rep. Exequiel Javier.

It's difficult to justify a recall against Perez since she has succeeded in one year's time to get many public works projects for Antique, thanks to her wide connections in the executive and legislative branches. Some of these projects came from President Macapagal-Arroyo. Within a year, Antique has moved out of the list of the 20 poorest provinces and is now classified as a second-class province. Its progress has attracted prospective investors, the latest being the Korean consortium Brander Agro-Industrial Development Corp. The Koreans want to sign a MOA for a Calabarzon-type project in Antique and Perez is targeting 20 hectares for this purpose.

Given all this, what could move her political foes to initiate a recall process against Perez, if not jealousy?

* * *

At the recent Bishops-Businessmen's Conference forum in Makati on "The MMDA and the Vendors: The Moral Issue," controversial MMDA Chair Bayani "BF" Fernando and Evelyn Castillo, president of the Quezon City Sidewalk Vendors' Association, were the main speakers. I found the forum fascinating as it gave us an insight into the economic, political and cultural realities in our society. BF was quite persuasive in arguing that the opportunity to fix things and put order through his current campaign against illegal vending on sidewalks is now and if we let this campaign falter, another chance may not come again. "The time for analysis is over as it only leads to paralysis," he stressed.

To those who argue for "compassion" for the sidewalk vendors, Fernando's reply is that upholding the law is the ultimate in compassion, as it would benefit not just a few but all of society. What one does in his own house is his business, he said, but the moment he steps out into the streets he becomes "part of society and therefore subject to its rules and regulations."

* * *

It's hard to argue against BF's line especially since he proved it in Marikina City during his three terms as mayor. Interestingly, Castillo said that her group agrees 85 percent with Fernando and disagrees in only 15 percent, mainly in his planned (he still has to do it) method of eviction, i.e., by pouring kerosene on the vendors' goods. Castillo said, to the amusement of the audience, that the vendors will never run out of capital, for they can always run to "5-6" lenders.

* * *

Fernando stressed that aside from appropriating the sidewalks, the vendors give unfair competition to those who rent market stalls. What I got from Castillo is that vendors are forced to use the sidewalks because they don't have the "goodwill money" to rent market stalls, which cost from P20,000 to P30,000. But BF debunked this by saying that so many markets are losing rentals because of the illegal vendors, and are now only too glad to rent them out on a daily basis without demanding goodwill money anymore.

* * *

A good way to help the illegal vendors relocate to a permanent market site is for public and private agencies to lend them money for the rental, payable perhaps daily. Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos recently explained how his administration did something like this. Different agencies may have to come in with credit assistance, if only to help avert a class war. Apparently the middle class is with BF on this issue, while many of the lower classes are against him since they are hurting. But perhaps they don't have to hurt if a rational way could be found to relocate them inside the markets.

* * *

I agree with BF that the time has come to evict the illegal vendors and restore order and sanity to our sidewalks and streets. One only has to see the pandemonium on Commonwealth Avenue near the Sandiganbayan and in front of Muñoz Market along Edsa. In areas already cleared by BF's eviction drive, the premises are cleaner and more orderly, and traffic flows faster now.

Political will is clearly needed and BF is demonstrating it now. But will he survive the political pressures? Will his boss support him against the jealous Metro Manila mayors?

* * *

How traffic is screwed up by obstructions such as illegal vending was discussed at the BBC forum by noted architect and urban planner Felino "Jun" Palafox. He pointed to studies showing that such obstructions affect some 800 to 2,000 vehicles per lane per hour! Think of the pileup over 24 hours. And since 80 percent of Metro Manilans take public transport, if these eight million riders waste 10 minutes a day, this means the loss of 1.5 million man-hours a day or about 300 million man-hours a year, according to Palafox. He warned that if no solution to the problem is found, by 2010 traffic in Metro Manila will be moving at only three kilometers per hour, which means it would be faster to walk.

Two plucky children

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

LOST in the debate over the "tried and tested formula" Negros Rep. Jules Ledesma claims to have used in dealing with the kidnappers of his children, Carlo and Cristina, and whether this formula relied mainly on the payment of millions of pesos in ransom, is the children's story of their four days of captivity and their release.

For now, their father has succeeded, if only temporarily, in shielding them from having to relive their ordeal. The media have been kept away from the children, and the congressman has released only snippets of the kidnapping and negotiations, including the tidbit about his fiancée, actress Assunta de Rossi, talking with the abductors over the phone when he had to go to the bathroom. Even the police have not been able to fully debrief Cristina and Carlo on their experience.

Still, the little that we know of the children's story is enough to inspire admiration for their pluck and presence of mind. After they were dropped off on a dark street in Makati, it is reported, Cristina, 10, and Carlo, 5, went up to a counter-man of a Burger Machine outlet and asked him if he knew the way to Alexandra Condominium in Pasig, where they live. To his credit, the man pointed them to the Makati Medical Center where they could make a call.

Imagine the scene: Two children, from all accounts raised in a sheltered and privileged environment, and having just survived a nerve-wracking ordeal, walking down a dark and deserted street and having the presence of mind to make their way to the only lit building in that corner of Makati. And when they arrived at the emergency room, say witnesses, the two calmly approached the admissions desk and asked to use the phone, identifying themselves as the Ledesma children.

* * *

WHEN I wondered to my husband what reserves of nerve and courage the Ledesma siblings had to draw on at the moment of their release, he wanted to know who between the two had done the talking. When I said it was Cristina, he observed, quite rightly, that "girls really mature much faster than boys," so it was no wonder that she would carry herself with aplomb far beyond her years.

Even an adult, I would wager, would not have been able to behave with such poise and maturity at such a trying time.

The children, it must be noted, lost their mother to cancer a year or so ago. Add to this the relentless pressure of media attention in recent weeks as their father chose to conduct a very public pursuit of their "Tita Sam," as they call De Rossi. In all, it must have been quite an unsettling situation for Cristina and Carlo, adjusting to the new person in their father's life, reconciling themselves to the thought of having a stepmother, coping with their classmates' and playmates' probing questions on their father's sudden notoriety, and on top of all that, their abduction in broad daylight with men discharging firearms in the air and at their van. And now they must endure being poster children for the abysmal peace-and-order situation in the country.

* * *

SO when Ledesma declares the children have "recovered" from the trauma, judging from the sight of them playing with no need of prodding, or because they haven't broken down in tears yet, I'm skeptical.

I really do hope, mainly for the children's sake, that the congressman's assessment of his children's mental and emotional state is on the button. But I do think counseling is in order, and not just of Cristina and Carlo, but of the Ledesmas, including De Rossi, as a family. They will have to process the tangled emotions and lingering fears emerging from their very frightening and public ordeal. And they will need to recover in a time and place of peace, quiet and privacy. The time for photo ops, press conferences and visits to Malacañang is over. Healing has to start now.

* * *

ON MONDAY, Sept. 23, the Rosa F. Meneses Breast Cancer Foundation will inaugurate its Breast Cancer Recovery Center in Barangay San Pedro, Tiaong, Quezon.

Located about 100 km south of Manila, the center will serve as a haven for "empowering women afflicted with the disease to confront and live with breast cancer with full honor and dignity." With a cool climate and clean air that the body needs; the peace, quiet and serenity the mind seeks; and nestled on the slopes of a breast-shaped mountain, the center is an ideal place where "one can regenerate, recharge and renew one's trust and faith in life."

The center consists of two large huts enveloped by a bamboo balcony and constructed of mostly native materials, with a total of eight rooms each with toilet and bath that can comfortably accommodate 16 women. A spiritual room, a sauna room and a multi-purpose hut are added features of the facilities.

On the day of the center's inauguration, there will be an early morning hike up the mountain by about 30 breast cancer warriors, their relatives and friends in a challenging "climb against the odds." The unveiling of the haven's markers and blessing of the premises will follow right after the Mass commemorating Rosa's second death anniversary. The closing ceremonies will see the release of pigeons, each with a ribbon bearing the name of a fallen breast cancer gladiator in a symbolic "Flight to Freedom!" After a simple yet healthy lunch prepared by PBCN volunteers, the 40-minute documentary video, "Rosa's Breast" will be shown for the very first time after having been premiered at the Third World Conference on Breast Cancer in Victoria, B.C., Canada, last June 5.

A village fiesta

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THERE have been so many changes in the last 100 years that reading about how others saw us makes you wonder if they were referring to the same people.

A certain Adjutant Hannaford thought that because we had a genial climate, a soil that yielded produce with the slightest tending and waters brimming with fish, "the Philippines islanders have much time left for amusements, dancing, music, occasional play-acting in crude village theaters, and, dearest of all, cock-fighting and betting." He claimed there were 99 holidays a year, besides Sundays or 151 in all.

Where Hannaford got the information that the patron saint of Manila was "St. Francis the tearful" he didn't say but he wrote that "a certain image...wept copiously for three hours when Manila was in danger. On the festal day the Archbishop and a whole regiment of canonicals, soldiers, civilians, dignitaries of all grades once took part." (The patron saint was St. Andrew or San Andres. Who it is these days is anybody's guess.)

But Hannaford was right when he said that since the advent of the Americans, the "spirit" was fading from these ancient celebrations, and that while American holidays like Washington's Birthday did not replace them, a more secular spirit had taken over.

Another interesting piece of trivia is the information that there was "the most curious procession...participated in only by natives and poorer mestizos. It takes place...during Holy Week, and is a high solemnity. Everyone walking in the procession is robed in his grave clothes. The garment is a long, loose gray robe with a hood, and it comes to the ground. The effect is very strange, and as the people go they repeat continually these words, 'Santa Maria, Madre de Dios, ora pro nobis.'"

The church took care of the village festivals since every pueblo had a patron saint and for the townspeople, this was the event of the year. For days and even weeks preparations would entail constructing arches across roads, which became more elaborate and costly at each end of the main street. Public buildings were likewise lavishly decorated and Chinese lanterns were mounted on fences and hung from trees. (Buntings though were not known; they were apparently an American contribution.)

Early morning would find the church atrium filled with men, women and children clad in their Sunday best while scores of *carromatas*, bamboo carts and even European-style carriages would disgorge their passengers and be parked in a mixed jumble.

The services included a sermon in the dialect and music by the village band, most of it operatic. The Gloria was accompanied by an aria from "Il Trovatore," the Credo by a Strauss waltz and the consecration by a passionate outburst from "La Traviata."

Fiesta or no fiesta, the merry-making would be interrupted by a two- or three-hour siesta, to be later continued at the cock-fighting arena. Here after paying a small entrance fee, everyone shared in the joys of betting and watching two roosters flay at each other with their heel armed with a sharp, razor-like blade about two inches long. "The intensity of the passion is indescribable," Hannaford noted.

Once the sun set, everyone gathered to witness the procession as it left the church. Every lamp and lantern was aglow throughout the parish. The front of the church and the arches along the main street looked as though an immense swarm of fireflies had descended on them. From the church advanced a group of children dressed like the Fathers of the Church with miters and false beards and bearing wooden crosses to fulfill a vow made by their parents for them. These were followed by black-veiled, black-robed figures with garlands of green leaves on their heads and candles in their hands representing the Jews. Then came a recumbent Christ on a couch of red velvet "almost hidden by gold ornaments." Other images followed at intervals gowned in satin, velvet and lace, sparkling with "jewels, diamonds, rubies and emeralds."

Between the various images marched military bands with groups of clergy in full regalia and officials in the robes of their office. The last figure was that of Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows borne on a magnificent litter "eclipsing with the blaze of her jewels and the gorgeousness of her apparel not only all the preceding saints but also her Divine Son." Behind her marched two lines, men and boys on one side, women and girls on the other.

After parading through the village streets for an hour or so, the procession reentered the church for the final blessing.

The whole town was an open house with the villagers entertaining relatives and friends from other towns according to their means. "In the houses of wealthy mestizos (whether of Chinese or Spanish descent), which are of palatial dimensions and furnished handsomely, balls and receptions are going forward, most of the former being *saya bailes*, at which only the native costumes for men and women are worn."

Magnificent fireworks entertained the general public and dramatic presentations —moro-moros or dramas allegorical in character with a mixture of biblical characters—were performed in the village theater for free. One curious feature of these presentations was that a prompter would read out the lines which would then be repeated by the actors.

Quiapo by night

YOUNG BLOOD

Lancellor Marcos

We want to know what the youn are thinking about. What are thei thoughts on current issues? W welcome contributions from th twentysomething and below.—Ed.

QUIAPO is utterly peaceful at night. It sleeps and breathe quietly, and except for a few people who are still awake a well past midnight, the whole place is still.

It's almost eerie to see it like this, devoid of all the hustl and bustle and the festive air that make it come alive in th daytime. Now the vendors are sleeping on mats laid out o the sidewalks. Their wares have been put away for the nigh And without them and their customers and the churchgoers, you can walk very easily from one end of Carriedo to the other where the church is waiting.

One o'clock seems to be a holy time. It is as if everything has paused for a moment, all the rushing at an end. Even the traffic is flowin smoothly.

The unusual solemnity makes it so inviting to go insid the church for the most intimate conversation with God Quiapo may be dead at night, but this is the time you ca hear your heart thudding without mistaking the sound for siren. As I walk the streets at this supposedly ungodly hour, feel glad for Quiapo and I feel much less cold and threatene than I should be.

* * *

Someone wakes me up. I immediately sense that I am lying on something hard. (It turns out that I fell asleep on pew inside the chapel on the sixth floor.) I can feel my bones through my skin. Because I have slept much better than th previous nights (after all, I'm not a princess with the pea problem) and I was having a dream, it takes me a while to recognize the apparition.

He's one of the security guards. He towers over me but looks mild-mannered. He is about to ask me the tough questions. It's too early yet to be squeezing my brain for satisfactory answers.

I have slept for just two hours. I thought I'd be more secure here in the chapel since it's empty the whole night—or at least that's what I thought when I slept here peacefully last night, and the two previous nights. Somebody with an urgent need to converse with God at this unlikely hour must have seen me all curled up on one of the benches and reported me to the guard. Or the guard was just making his rounds when he saw me.

Busted, I don't have the grace or the wit to fabricate a cute little story. I only manage to lie a little. He doesn't demand an explanation. So this is what I say: I have nowhere to rest my tired body the night. I just can't be going back to my place which is too far from here. I'm a student, so you can rest assured I'll be on my way before sunrise. May I go back to sleep now?

He understands. We go downstairs where he says I can sleep. Then he proceeds to narrate his new interesting discovery—me—to his colleagues as if he is expecting a pat on the back or an early Christmas bonus from his superiors.

Strangely, I don't feel ashamed. They didn't find me in my pajamas and I have a book with me, which is enough to convince them I am not exactly a vagabond. I hear them though, through half-shut eyes and wide-open ears, speculating that I may be a stow-away, which is funny since they don't know how to deal with a nicely dressed young man who says he's studying in UP and who's been sleeping on the bench of a hospital chapel.

Finally, they decide that I should stay at the lobby outside since it's strictly prohibited for someone like me with no one to visit at the hospital to be staying here as if it were a lodge. They don't exactly say lodge, but I'm fairly sure that's what's in their minds.

What will I do on the fourth night? I ask myself while claiming my ID at the exit. I can't sit on the bench at the lobby; people are smoking there. Besides, it takes inventiveness to manufacture sleep and I have just about lost that now.

I have somewhere else in mind although I know I cannot sleep there at all. It'll be just a long walk, I'm sure. A late night and early morning walk on the streets. In places where danger comes unannounced but sleep reigns. Quiapo is one of them.

Last night I realized one important thing: Those little things that we take for granted often take meaning only when we're suddenly deprived of them. Things like sleep.

And I realized too that it's not just some stupid fleas I'm running away from, but responsibilities in my life I'm either too afraid or uncaring to face. I owe myself much more than a sudden awakening, and then maybe I will find some peace.

Lancellor Marcos, 19, is a fourth year film major at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . .?

Sta. Mesa massacre

NO decision has been issued by a Manila court almost four years after cases were filed in connection with the massacre of two teenaged sibling and two housemaids in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Joanne Yao, 19, her brother Jonathan, 17, and their maids Allen Selorio, 16, and Iris Ipu, 17, died of multiple stab wounds on Oct. 31, 1998, allegedly inflicted by their houseboy.

Investigators of the Western Police District said that on the eve of the massacre, Dante Delfin, a houseboy of the Yao family, asked for a loan from them but was turned down. He then met his friend Erwin Daliva and had a drinking and pot session at the Yao's house. After which, they killed the four victims.

Daliva admitted his participation in the massacre and confirmed Delfin's involvement after his surrender, which was facilitated by his uncle, to the Dasmariñas, Cavite police.

Four counts of murder were filed against Daliva at the sala of Judge Manuel Muro of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 54 on Nov. 13, 1998. Delfin was not included in the charges because he had not been arrested. The prosecutors argued that a separate information could be filed later after his arrest. Daliva pleaded not guilty when arraigned on Jan. 4, 1999.

The cases were submitted for decision on May 9, 2000. However, the Supreme Court suspended Muro in August 2000 for showing bias toward convicted drug trafficker Yu Yuk Lai. He was consequently dismissed in November 2001.

Case status: Judge Wilfredo Reyes took over as acting presiding judge on Nov. 24, 2000. Reyes, who is also the presiding judge of Branch 36, has yet to hand down a decision on the case. Daliva is presently detained at the Manila City Jail. Delfin remains at large.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

A common front to protect human rights

WOUNDS heal in time. But some leave scars so ugly that they feel raw and continue to throb as painfully as the old wound that had caused them despite the passing of many years.

To the generation of Filipinos, which actually witnessed the facts and events in the country from Sept. 21, 1972 to 1981, the memory of martial law or PD 1081 still afflicts their psyche like a gaping wound after 30 years. They flinch at the memory of their loved ones or themselves being arrested, imprisoned and tortured.

The denial of civil liberties and human rights as the state's response against those who dissented and placed the status quo in "grave danger or imminent threat" traumatized the nation.

But healing is more difficult to those who have lost loved ones to extra-judicial killings and involuntary disappearance. Not knowing up to now what happened to their disappeared loved ones, their families, relatives and friends live today as though the strong-arm regime of the late dictator, Ferdinand E. Marcos, had not ended.

Historical records estimate anywhere from 60,000 to 75,000 were arrested while martial law was in effect. Thousands disappeared—never to be seen or heard from again. Some resurfaced alive but were barely able to live again after their ordeal. The remains of others who were summarily executed by their military captors were recovered during exhumation missions. Many have not been accounted for and are still missing. Until they are found or their dead bodies retrieved and their perpetrators brought to justice, those left to search for them will never know the meaning of peace.

The ouster of Marcos in 1986 and the successive turnover of political power with the restoration of the electoral processes have not at all caused the cessation of state repression. While at least 882 cases of involuntary disappearance during Marcos' time were reported to the Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND) since 1985, the grim count has never stopped.

Under the Aquino administration, 820 cases were reported. There were 85 under the administration of Ramos and 58 during Estrada's time. The government of President Macapagal-Arroyo has 18 cases to account for; 12 of the cases involve victims who are still missing while four have surfaced alive. Due to technical problems, two could not be documented.

Remembering martial rule and its ruthless impacts on our society must strengthen our resolve never to allow its return.

Taught well by our own history, it is now imperative for us to build a brighter tomorrow for our children by forging a common front to protect our human rights, today.

—WILMA Q. TIZON,
executive council, Families of
Victims of Involuntary
Disappearance, Cubao,
Quezon City

A scheme for disposing of 'clean garbage'

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

I'VE been inspecting our trash bins lately and I observed that the bulkier trash are those which can be considered "clean garbage." For example: empty aluminum softdrink cans, empty mineral water plastic bottles and old newspapers and magazines.

I am sure there are NGOs that are willing to buy them (or just manage their disposal) in order to save our environment. This could be done through our barangay halls which are very accessible to all of us.

The city or town mayor can assign one type of "clean garbage" per barangay. Maybe, 25 empty aluminum cans can be exchanged for a P10 stub (or corresponding points) to be issued by the barangay. When the NGO comes, say one Sunday a month, then we can claim our P10 or a corresponding canned softdrink or whatever (like a movie pass or a McDip stub, etc.).

I am sure that even waiters of restaurants and fast-food joints would be interested to gather empty cans and plastic bottles separately—with the permission of their bosses. Even offices, parishes or schools can participate. The proceeds from whatever "clean garbage" they bring to the different barangays can be used for their Christmas parties.

Perhaps the NGO can also give the barangay personnel extra pay for the extra work—in the form of "claim stubs," too.

In our neighborhood, there are many barangays, and I can think of many different "clean garbage" for each of them to manage (collection for NGOs). But the barangays must be strict in receiving them clean. For one barangay, one NGO, one type of material. For example, used batteries, used prepaid cards, empty glass bottles (like medicine bottles, wine bottles, etc.), empty instant noodles cups, empty ice cream plastic containers, empty shampoo bottles, scratch papers, old phone directories, empty cartons of all Unilever products (like bath soaps, toothpastes), empty cartons of all Nestlé products, etc., used clothes, old toys and many more. I am sure there are a lot of old, still useful stuff in each of our houses but we just don't know where to bring them, or even if we know where, they are not very accessible.

I hope our good government officials will consider this suggestion or something like it. More importantly, I hope there will be enough NGOs and even GOs (like the Department of Social Welfare and Development for the used clothes and old toys) willing to be involved. If all our "clean garbage" are not placed in our trash bins, we will have less *basura* problems and perhaps less flooding in Metro Manila, among others.

—ANDREA MARIE M. REYES,
Manila Science High School,
Taft Avenue, Manila

Salacious and sleazy movies

WHAT makes a person a star in our country? What makes a person an actor or actress in the Philippines?

A willingness to undress? The ability to sustain a love-making scene ad infinitum? Curves in the right places?

"If you have seen unexpurgated still pictures of the new bombshell, Lolita de Leon, you would have no problem guessing why her first big picture, the self-descriptive 'Laman,' was censored by the board of review for overly sexy scenes that were not only too many but also too long," observed Jullie Yap Daza.

Movies are supposed to educate and enlighten the public and make the people appreciate the art. But what we have are Tagalog movies educating the public on salacious and sleazy encounters of human infidelity, violent retribution and inane frivolous humor.

And who are the "stars"? Virtual unknown sex sirens plucked from beauty pageants, fashion ramps and nightclubs.

For a change, how about Tagalog movies that will nourish the roots of Filipino culture, objectify Filipino values, lift the Filipino spirit and inspire noble thoughts? Movies should enlarge our experiences, not prostitute our values by exploiting our vanities and promoting sexual perversions. Movies should not constantly cater to our bestial instincts but should serve as catharsis to truth and reality.

At the rate we are producing "bomba" movies and feeding the public with movies showing human foibles, it will not be surprising if our generation will glorify evildoers, malefactors, transgressors, felons, miscreants and sexual perverts.

—SAMUEL P. FERNANDEZ,
Polytechnic University
of the Philippines,
Sta. Mesa, Manila

School kids watching noontime TV shows

WHAT is the sense of sending schoolchildren to watch noontime variety shows in television studios?

In my view, there isn't much that is of positive educational value that the children can get for the effort spent. This practice can even be detrimental to the children's developing sensibilities.

I believe the kind of entertainment provided by these noontime shows is not suitable for the impressionable minds of the young students. For instance, the kind of toilet humor that the hosts dish out are definitely not for children's ears! Other examples are the harsh and disparaging remarks that TV hosts frequently utter in order to demean their rivals. Lastly, the kind of very irreverent humor in these shows are in fact so licentious that one wonders why it is permitted by the authorities.

I believe there are more things that need to be censored in these noontime shows other than their sexy dancers. As a matter of fact, some of the contests deserve to be banned or, at the very least, altered like the one in which the contestants are made to perform extraordinary feats or to eat food that nobody in his right mind would eat.

—MICHAEL G. SALUSTIANO,
haribon47@yahoo.com

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Wanted: a wooden flute

I AM a retired employee, now 77 years old, and in fairly good health. To avoid being idle, I have been devoting some of my free time to teaching church songs to the choir in my church for Mass.

But I have a handicap: my hearing is greatly impaired. Most of the time I find it difficult to discern if the tune I am teaching is being correctly sung by the singers.

I know how to play a wooden flute, and it was very useful as it gave the right tune for the singers to follow. But it was broken during an accident. It was a blackwood (ebony) flute.

I want to buy a similar one. But the flutes available in instrument stores are of metal, and the fingering to play them is different from those that are made of wood to which I am accustomed.

If some readers of the INQUIRER have wooden flutes that are still in good condition, I would be very glad to hear from them and negotiate a possible purchase.

I hope they will write to me at my address.

—FERNANDO T. TOBIAS,
3750 Sto. Angel Sur,
Sta. Cruz, Laguna

How SSS pensions are computed

THIS is in reference to a letter from Emelita C. Sidaya questioning the computation of her retirement pension.

According to a report submitted by our Pensions Processing Center, Sidaya is receiving the correct pension. A pension is computed as follows:

[TIN: Double check figures for accuracy]

Monthly Pension (MP) = 20% of AMSC x [2% of AMSC x (CYS-10)]

The total monthly salary credit and Credited Years of Service (CYS) are derived from the member's monthly contribution. Sidaya's CYS is 16 years and her Average Monthly Salary Credit (AMSC) is P679.17 while her Total Monthly Salary Credit (TMSC) is P40,750. Her AMSC was derived by dividing the TMSC in the last 60 months prior to the semester or retirement by 60 months.

If she has more questions on her monthly pension, we advise her to request for a recomputation at the Pensions Processing Center located at our main branch in Quezon City.

—JOEL P. PALACIOS,
assistant vice president,
Media Affairs Department,
Social Security System,
East Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City

Slow work on Binakayan bridge

THE BINAKAYAN bridge in Cavite has been under construction since May and many people think no progress is taking place until now. We do not see workers hurrying to finish this bridge.

My family and I have been suffering at least a one-hour delay when we go to Cavite during weekends because of the traffic caused by the bridge construction. Under normal circumstances our trip only takes one and a half to two hours from Manila to Naic, Cavite. Now we are lucky if we reach our town in three hours' time. What about the daily commuters like students and workers?

All vehicles going to Kawit and nearby towns have to use the alternate bridge found in Mabolo, Bacoor, while all the vehicles going to SM Bacoor or Manila take the Binakayan bridge. Both bridges can accommodate only one vehicle at a time. The volume of vehicles going in and out of Cavite every day is stupendous so this situation is intolerable.

I think the best solution is to speed up the construction of the Binakayan bridge. Work should be done 24 hours a day so that in a month's time or so everything will be back to normal again.

If they don't hurry up the construction, traffic will get even worse with the onset of the Christmas holidays. Are the provincial officials of Cavite listening?

—LISA B. JUAN,
senior programmer,
Software Venture
International-Manila

The Sabah syndrome

COMMENTARY

Natalia M.L.M. Morales

THE FORCIBLE return of Filipinos from Sabah is expected but pathetic. Pathetic because we as a nation do not seem to learn or know any better.

The sense of comfort the short distance from the tip of Mindanao to Sabah brings to our people there can be deceiving. Lands differ from one another according to the imprints left on them by the people. Some people can leave better, more productive, progressive imprints than others.

The benefits of "borderless economies" are available only to those who are both legitimate and upright. The poor and illegal immigrants can expect traps and jail, like many of them have suffered already. When this happens, a sense of national guilt and trauma descends upon the nation.

A clash of wills among Malayan brothers is taking place. Malaysia is simply asserting its rights by sending home thousands of illegal Filipino workers, women and children. It can't play hosts to them forever, even if it wanted so.

Now the Philippines is reaping once more a rich harvest of sob stories and protests. The government reacts to the repatriation, by sending boats and hastily putting up resettlement areas. Dignity is somehow lost. Worse, the deportees return to a sub-standard situation they can readily abandon. It is abuse in another form—this time on home grounds. Can they be blamed if they choose a less intense abuse in a neighboring country?

It is hard to point fingers. Whether government policy or the stubborn will of modern Filipino carpetbaggers is to blame, there are still rules and decorum that must be observed. A narrow vision can prove harmful.

Overseas employment is the path of least resistance for a sustainable policy on livelihood. Poverty alleviation should not only be a blueprint for Filipinos at home. It needs to be expanded to take care of overseas Filipinos who are no longer wanted by their host countries. Without this, their repatriation can spell trouble.

Southern Mindanao already has its share of "internally displaced persons" (IDP). The Draft Declaration of the International Law Association of 1998 defines them as "persons or group of persons who have been forced to flee or leave their homes or places of habitual residence as a result of armed conflicts, internal strife or systematic violations of human rights, and who have not crossed internationally recognized State borders." Their number has been placed at 30 million worldwide.

Terrorist activities in Sulu and Basilan must have increased the number of internally displaced persons. Add to their number the deportees from Sabah and the region could turn into a boiling pot of fears with a grim economic future.

The United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on International Cooperation to Avert New Flows of Refugees considers a massive flow of refugees as a threat to international peace and security, which the international community must prevent.

The massive deportation of Filipinos from Sabah does not quite qualify as a refugee problem. Not anyone can claim refugee status just because he escaped from the direst political, economic and social conditions. The Filipinos in Sabah are undocumented, and so their presence is outside the law of the state. General international law says that states are free to decide which aliens may enter their territory and stay there.

The right to be granted asylum is not internationally recognized. What the UN Declaration of Human Rights specifies is the right to "seek" and "enjoy" asylum. Even in the case of documented foreigners who study, work, travel or engage in any other legitimate activity, the host state determines the conditions and length of their stay. International law acknowledges that no refugee (or foreigner) can expect, as a matter of right, to regularize his stay in the state without the latter's consent. Bilateral treaties or agreements may further restrict the state's discretion, but it is likewise a political choice for the state.

The outrage over the treatment of the Filipinos in Sabah, however, goes beyond the legal norms of international obligations of states. It has to do with hurt pride, shameful treatment and unequal resources.

The unsettled political and legal status of Sabah in the minds of the Filipino public adds fuel to the situation. Our government has not clearly established where the claim now stands. The Legislative and Executive Development Advisory Council has been revived but will it eventually become dormant like it did during the Ramos administration?

In the meantime, our government has to offer new hope to the deportees but is it forthcoming? It cannot absolve violations of the laws of a neighboring country.

The Abu Sayyaf and the disgruntled Muslim community present unresolved challenges. The deportations can only aggravate the situation. I am afraid that without seriously and effectively addressing the problem, our neighbors in the Asean will soon have to face the reality of political and economic refugees from the Philippines. It is a scenario that we all should dread.

It is an accepted fact that Filipino workers and professionals are highly prized abroad for their English proficiency, high quality of training and performance, and sound work habits and orientation. The problem is, a good number of them are undocumented and therefore illegally staying in their host countries. While they generate livelihood for themselves and their families and contribute to the country's foreign exchange earnings, without the necessary legal documents they also contribute to the deterioration of international goodwill for overseas Filipinos.

A show of tolerance by foreign governments cannot be expected to last forever. As a political science adage puts it, "There are no permanent friends or enemies, only permanent national interests." And national interests must be viewed within the limits of rule and order. Without legal documents, Filipinos overseas are forced to accept low wages and are likely to be abused and exploited.

The Sabah syndrome will continue to haunt us and the Filipino diaspora won't stop in the near future. Educating our Filipino workers on the need to adhere to the law is a necessary first step if we want to solve this deportation conundrum.

Natalia M.L.M. Morales is a professor of political science and international studies at the University of the Philippine in Diliman. E-mail her at nataliam91@hotmail.com.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bush takes exception to being compared to Hitler by German minister

WASHINGTON—The White House Thursday blasted as "outrageous and inexplicable" German Justice Minister Herta Daeubler-Gmelin's likening of US President George W. Bush's political methods to those used by Adolf Hitler.

"This statement by the justice minister is outrageous and is inexplicable," Bush spokesperson Ari Fleischer said.

The comment from the German official—which she has since repudiated—came as she spoke to metalworkers during a campaign stop for her Social Democrats ahead of Sunday's general election.

"Bush wants to divert attention from domestic political problems. It's a method that is sometimes favored. Hitler also did that," she said, according to a report Thursday by the Schwaebisches Tagblatt newspaper.

The paper reported that Daeubler-Gmelin, who is a lawyer by profession, later said: "I never put Bush and Hitler on the same level."

Daeubler-Gmelin's remarks were indicative of a widening schism in US-German relations. Hoping to wrangle more votes in close elections, German Chancellor Gerhardt Schroeder has repeatedly condemned the US momentum toward a strike on Iraq.

Meanwhile, US Sen. Jesse Helms, the ranking Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the US Congress would seriously consider withdrawing US troops from Germany if Schroeder won reelection and did not stop his "America-bashing." *AFP*

US favors hitting Iraq in February, says paper

WASHINGTON—US military planners are focusing on February as the best time to launch a war against Iraq and would count on defecting Iraqi units to topple President Saddam Hussein, The Washington Times reported Friday.

The newspaper, which quotes unnamed senior defense officials, said the planners would also seek to design a buildup of forces that would take weeks, rather than months, to assemble. It took the US six months to build up the required troops before the 1991 Gulf War.

Troops would be more widely dispersed so as not to create large base camps that could be more easily targeted by mobile Scud missiles, The Times said out, adding that the Pentagon had not yet adopted a final blueprint.

The paper said the US military also was looking at ways to hit as many targets from the air as possible in the opening days of the military campaign.

Commanders would depend on Tomahawk cruise missiles and B-2 bombers. It would commit 10 to 16 of the stealth aircraft, each of which can drop more than a dozen heavy satellite-guided bombs on different targets, The Times said.

Once Iraq's estimated 60-plus surface-to-air missile sites were destroyed, B-52 and B-1 bombers would join the war, also dropping precision-guided weapons on critical command centers and known headquarters, it said.

The bombers would fly from the United States, the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia and an air base in Fairford, Britain.

The daily said much of the debate centered on the size of the US force, which could range from 75,000 to 250,000 soldiers.

General Tommy Franks, who heads the Central Command and would run the war, advocates a relatively large ground presence, the Time said.

Vice President Richard Cheney and Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz are said to favor a smaller force, while Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld advocates a medium-strength force, it said.

US President George W. Bush insists he has not yet decided whether to launch military action against Iraq.

While the United States has relied heavily on anti-Taliban fighters in its war in Afghanistan, in Iraq, it would rely on defectors and dissidents within Saddam's army, the paper said, quoting two senior officials. *AFP*

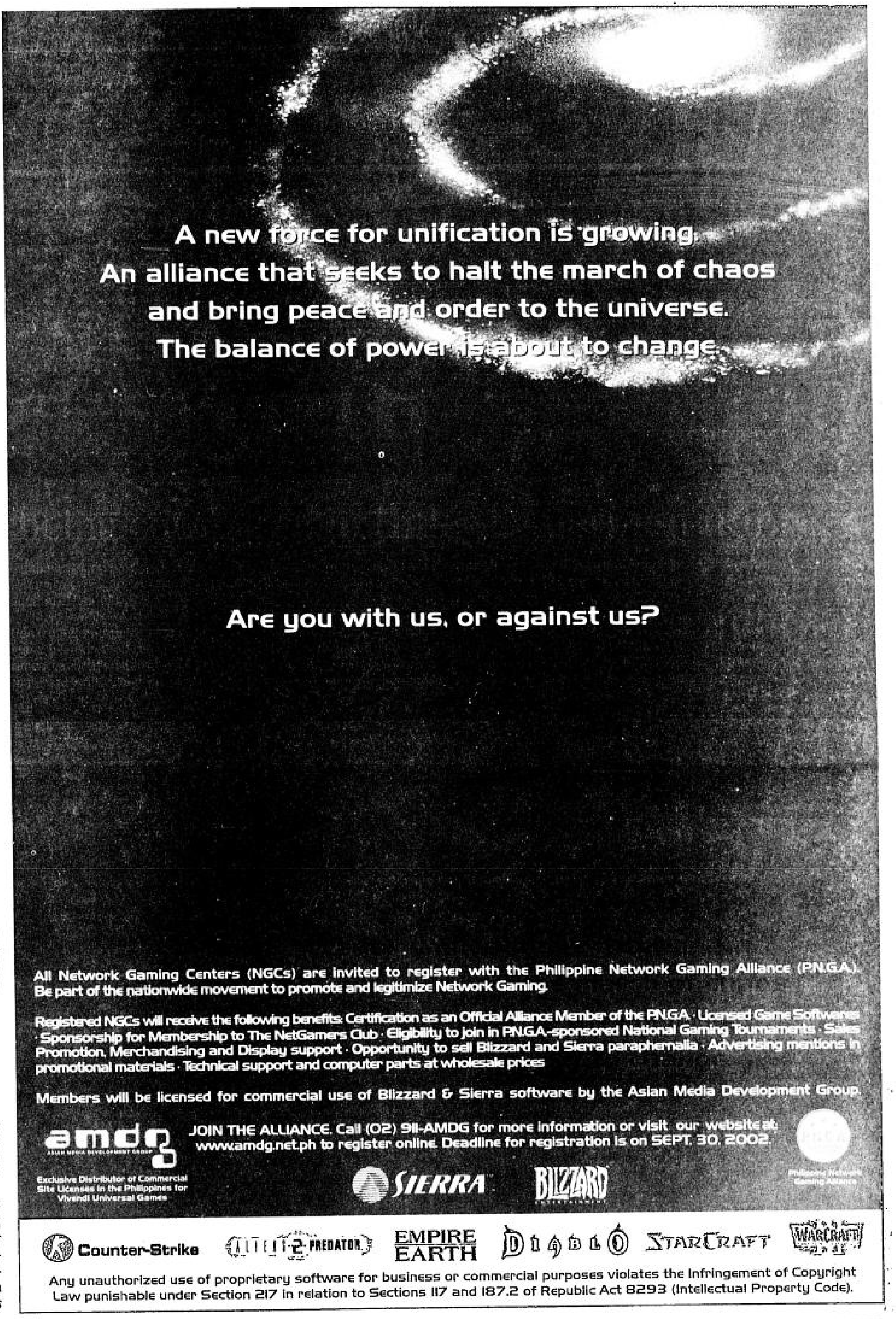
UN to probe alleged war crimes in Kabul

UNITED NATIONS—The United Nations will investigate alleged war crimes and mass graves in Afghanistan, where many people died under suspicious circumstances, a top UN official said on Thursday.

Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN special envoy for Afghanistan, cautioned that it would be difficult to guarantee the safety of witnesses and investigators and that it was not certain a probe could be completed.

But he told the UN Security Council that Afghanistan's transitional government and the UN mission there have agreed that several sites should be investigated.

Up to 1,000 Taliban or al-Qada fighters reportedly suffocated in airless container trucks after surrendering to Northern Alliance forces under Uzbek warlord Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum late last year. *Reuters*



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Israel tanks surround Arafat HQ

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Israeli troops blew up two buildings in Yasser Arafat's city-block-sized headquarters Friday—part of a major assault with tanks and bulldozers meant to isolate the Palestinian leader in a response to a Tel Aviv suicide bombing that killed five Israelis.

Israeli snipers killed one of Arafat's bodyguards, and troops using loudspeakers called on wanted men in the compound to surrender. In all, 20 men gave themselves up throughout the night, walking in single file with their arms raised. However, several senior officials sought by Israel, including the Palestinian intelligence chief in the West Bank, were not among them.

It marked the third time since March that Israel raided Arafat's compound, confining him to his office building. Salam Fayad, the Palestinian finance minister, said Arafat is in good spirits. Arafat is calling world leaders, urging them to "force Israel to end the aggression that is threatening the life of Arafat and everyone around him," Fayad, speaking by telephone from the compound.

He said water and electricity had not been cut, unlike in earlier raids.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli tanks backed by helicopter gunships raided a Gaza City neighborhood and blew up three metal workshops the army said were used for making weapons. A 25-year-old woman was killed by helicopter fire as she stood on her balcony, and a 35-year-old man was killed by tank fire while he walked near his house, witnesses said. The man was mentally handicapped, his family said.

The Israeli military said it was stepping up activities all over the West Bank. At Arafat's headquarters, forces are "isolating the area which is providing refuge to about 20 wanted persons bent on terrorism," an army statement said.

The latest incursions came after a rare emergency session of the Israeli Cabinet late Thursday. Ministers put the blame for the Tel Aviv bombing on Arafat, saying he established a "coalition of terror."

It was not immediately clear how long Arafat would remain under siege. In March, he was confined to several rooms in his office building for 34 days. In June, troops reoccupied Ramallah and most other West Bank towns, and Arafat has not ventured from his compound, even on days when a military curfew was lifted.

Israeli media reports have said the army has prepared a contingency plan for expelling Arafat. However, it appeared unlikely Israel would move against Arafat directly at this time. The United States opposes such a step as too disruptive, and Israel's defense minister, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer from the moderate Labor party, has said expelling Arafat will only boost his standing.

In Thursday's bombing, a suicide bomber detonated nail-studded explosives on a crowded bus in a shopping and business district in downtown Tel Aviv, killing five other people and wounding about 50. Among those killed was the driver. *AP*

SMOKE billows from Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah after Israeli troops blew up a building Sept. 20.

AFP

Bush eyes dropping N. Korea from 'axis of evil'

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said on Friday that US President George W. Bush had told him he would consider dropping North Korea from his "axis of evil" trio and reopening dialogue with the reclusive communist state.

Koizumi, recording an interview to be aired on Japanese television on Sunday, said he had proposed the North Korean move in a telephone call to Bush on Thursday night and that Bush had replied he would seriously consider doing this.

Bush has linked North Korea with Iraq and Iran in an "axis of evil" he says threatens the world with weapons of mass destruction.

Koizumi was briefing Bush on his landmark summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-il on Tuesday, at which Kim promised to extend a moratorium on missile tests and honor pledges concerning Pyongyang's nuclear program.

Washington is currently pondering whether to send its own senior envoy to North Korea to reopen talks, and US officials had been watching Koizumi's Pyongyang summit for clues as to whether Kim was really ready to open up his isolated nation.

Koizumi also said that Japan would never allow any economic aid that it gave to North Korea to be used to make weapons of mass destruction.

Kim and Koizumi agreed on Tuesday that the two nations would resume talks on establishing diplomatic ties in October and that economic aid for the battered North Korean economy would be worked out as part of that process.

Analysts have said Japan could ultimately give its former colony as much as $10 billion in aid.

Koizumi said on Thursday that Kim had agreed at the summit to allow International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors into the country to examine its nuclear program.

Kim Jong-il had reassured Koizumi in talks on Tuesday that Pyongyang would honor all its international pledges concerning its nuclear program. *REUTERS*

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Ivory Coast's ex-ruler dies in coup try

ABIDJAN—Ivory Coast's former military ruler General Robert Guei was killed on Thursday when loyalist forces put down an attempted coup in the West African nation which sources said claimed the lives of at least 80 troops.

The uprising came as President Laurent Gbagbo was on a visit to Italy, which he immediately cut short. His interior minister Emile Boga Doudou was also among those killed, a presidential spokesman said. At least 150 soldiers were wounded.

Although local officials said the rebellion had been put down in the main city of Abidjan by Thursday evening, sporadic automatic weapons fire was heard late into the night.

Officials also said mutineers were still holding Bouake, the second biggest town in the former French colony, about 290 km north of Abidjan.

Military sources cited concern that some mutineers could try to get to the northern reaches of Abidjan from Bouake and join up with mutineers who might be holding out in the city.

Ivory Coast is the world's largest cocoa producer.

Government officials in Italy said Guei's men were behind the uprising, which broke out in the pre-dawn hours. An AFP correspondent counted at least 25 corpses which officials said were those of mutinous troops.

The government announced an immediate nighttime curfew until at least Tuesday across the country, which until Guei seized power in 1999 had been seen as a relatively stable nation in an otherwise troubled region.

Defence Minister Moise Lida Kouassi told AFP that government forces would attack Bouake on Friday to wrest it from the control of the mutineers.

"We will assemble our forces at Yamoussoukro (the political capital) . . . and start the offensive from Friday morning," he said, adding that his own wife had been kidnapped during the coup bid and that he had no word on her fate.

Meanwhile unconfirmed reports said violence was continuing in the northern town of Korhogo.

Kouassi said General Guei's body was found near a hospital in Abidjan's upmarket Cocody district after the mutiny which broke out around 3:00 am, when what he said were between 500 and 600 men attacked "in several waves." Guei, who staged Ivory Coast's first coup in December 1999, had earlier been blamed by an aide to Gbagbo for the latest uprising in the west African country.

In Rome, a government spokesman accompanying the president said General Guei had recruited the men behind Thursday's army uprising.

"We know that when General Guei came to power in 1999, he did not have enough of a loyal base within the armed forces and he recruited demobilized former soldiers," said spokesman Patrick Achy.

"When President Laurent Gbagbo came to power, there was repeated talk of demobilizing these troops," he said.

"It would seem that the men at the core of the mutiny were those brought in by General Guei." "Republic forces have the upper hand, and the situation is under control in Abidjan and normalization is underway in Bouake," he said.

"The president will address the nation when he is back in Abidjan," Achy added. In a state television broadcast, Kouassi said the army was "in control of the situation" but admitted there were "small pockets of resistance" in Bouake and Korhogo.

He said it would be "a matter of a few hours" before government forces regained control over the entire country.

AFP

FROM TAIWAN WITH LOVE AFP

The Taiwan government said Sept. 20 it will return the 1,300-year-old stone carved Buddha's head (in photo) to China to help preserve Chinese cultural relics.

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Bomb attack on Musharraf thwarted

WASHINGTON—A top US official said Pakistan's intelligence services had thwarted a plot to blow up President Pervez Musharraf, although Pakistani officials earlier denied any such attack had been planned.

Testifying on Thursday at a joint hearing of the Senate and House intelligence committees into last year's Sept. 11 attacks, US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said:

"President Musharraf's intelligence service thwarted a bombing attempt on him yesterday."

His statement followed a report in Thursday's Washington Post that Pakistani police and intelligence officials had arrested an Islamic militant who was plotting to assassinate Musharraf.

Earlier on Thursday Pakistani Interior Minister Moinuddin Haider had denied local media reports that militants arrested on Wednesday had planned to attack Musharraf while he was at a defense exhibition in the southern city of Karachi.

Musharraf attended the exhibition on Monday night and on Tuesday.

Haider said the militants had been involved in an earlier foiled plot to assassinate Musharraf in late April, as well as in a car bomb attack on the US consulate in Karachi in June that killed 12 people.

"They are involved in the US consulate bombing for sure and they earlier had attempted—not this time—on the president's life," Haider told reporters.

Musharraf, speaking in Islamabad on Thursday after opening a two-day conference on peace and security in South Asia, also denied there had been any such plan.

The Washington Post report said Sharib Ahmad, 30, was arrested in Karachi late on Tuesday with five other men at a house less about two km from the defence exhibition site.

"In their sole aim to kill President Musharraf these militants had collected 70 hand grenades, 40 rocket-propelled grenades and rockets and . . . bomb-making chemicals at their hide-out in Karachi," the Post quoted a Karachi police official as saying.

REUTERS

Across the NATION

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Doctor complains Villar-owned firm discriminates vs Muslims

ILIGAN CITY—If you're a Muslim, or if you are married to one, don't even think of buying any piece of property from the Frontierra Subdivision in Cagayan de Oro City.

The subdivision is being developed by Frontierra Subdivision of Cagayan Communities Inc. (FSCCI), a subsidiary of Crown Asia, which is owned by the family of Sen. Manuel Villar.

This was found out by Janeth Sumalpong Kamlian, a physician here who is married to Jamail Kamlian, vice chancellor for research and extension of the government-owned Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology.

Janeth said she and her husband had applied to purchase a 189-square meter lot at the Frontierra Subdivision after meeting with an FSCCI agent on Aug. 3.

The lot was originally priced at P795,000 but the Kamlians were promised a 15 percent discount if they paid for the piece of property in cash.

They were even invited to inspect the lot by an agent of the FSCCI identified as Gemma Patalinghug.

Patalinghug even offered the Kamlians free use of the company's Mitsubishi L-300 van to the site located a few kilometers from the Lumbia Airport in Cagayan de Oro City.

Because the Kamlians liked what they saw, they raised the money to buy the lot.

They wanted to avail of the 15 percent discount offered by the company.

After paying P5,000 of the non-refundable reservation fee and after submitting the required documents including the filled out application form which revealed that Janeth's husband is a Muslim, Patalinghug immediately told her that the application had been turned down by the company's Manila office.

Jamail quoted Patalinghug as saying that it was the real estate firm's policy not to allow Muslims to purchase lots in the subdivision because Muslim families usually have many visitors and the frequent visits from the guests could disrupt quiet neighborhoods.

"My family and I cannot own (a piece of) property in the subdivision because of my being a Muslim. The alleged owner Villar should put up a sign saying 'Muslims not allowed here'," Jamail said.

On Aug. 23, Janeth wrote FSCCI manager Bernadette Maranga requesting to know the real reason behind the rejection of her application to purchase a lot in the subdivision.

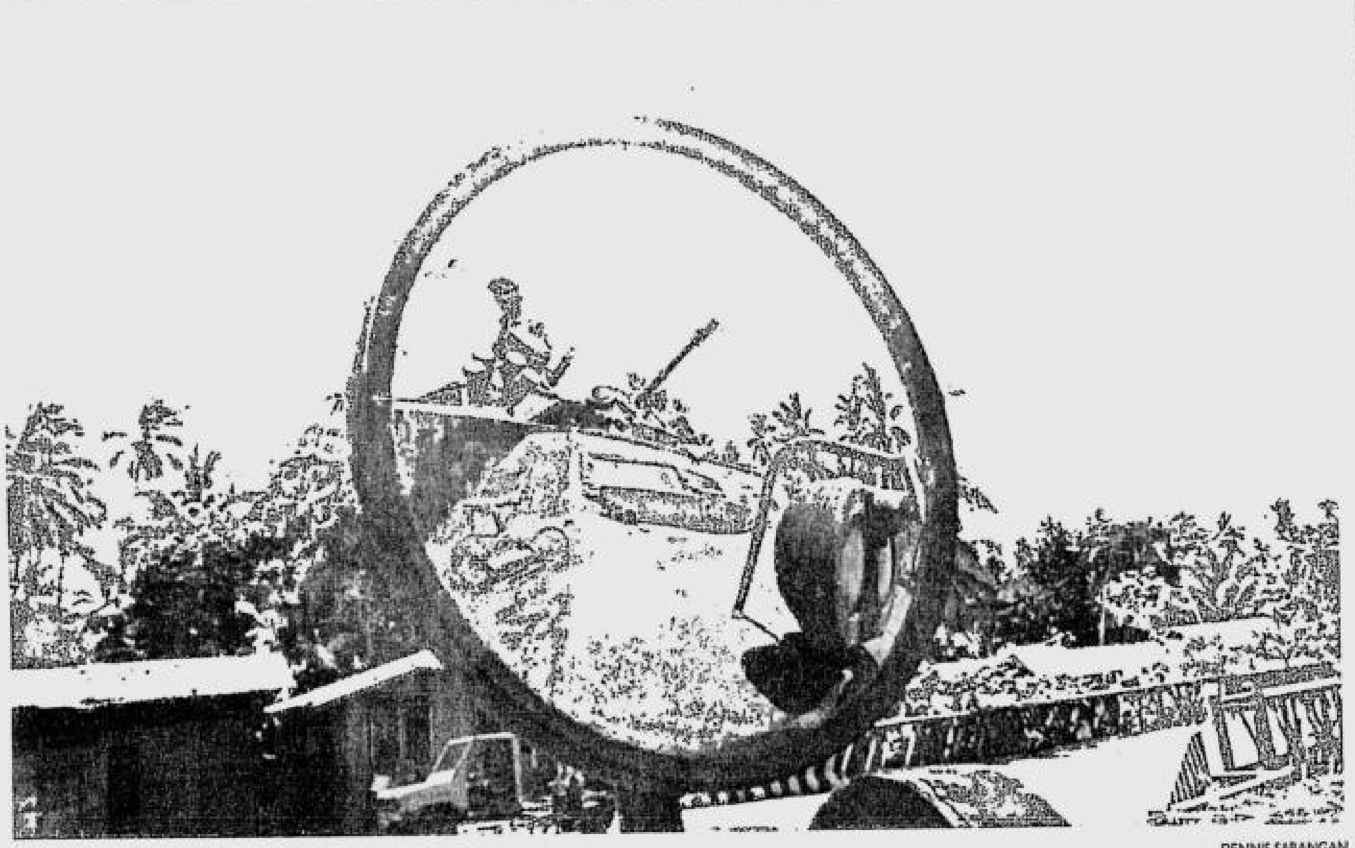
As of late yesterday afternoon, the FSCCI has not replied to Janeth's letter.

The INQUIRER repeatedly tried but failed to get Maranga's side.

A staff member of the FSCCI, who only introduced himself as Macky, said his boss was out of the office and that he could not provide the INQUIRER her mobile phone number because it was confidential.

Jamail said the FSCCI had recently invited him "to talk things over" in one of the restaurants here.

But he said he turned down the invitation and instead told Maranga to see him at his office. *Jeffrey Maningo and Christine Ortega, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



DENNIS SABANGAN

WAR REFLECTIONS

The war in Mindanao against separatists and terrorists is captured in the reflection on the side mirror of an armored personnel carrier treading the streets of Luuk, Sulu.

ROUNDUP

Poverty-free zones

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The Department of Labor and Employment said the two poverty-free zones it put up in Lasam, Cagayan, and Aglipay, Quirino, are generating jobs especially for displaced workers from farms hit by calamities. Guerrero Cirilo, DOLE regional director, said 2,000 families in the two zones have been manufacturing furniture that the Department of Trade and Industry will market during trade fairs in Metro Manila and in the Calabarzon area in December. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Anti-poverty

SAN FERNANDO CITY—The government has launched the presidential task force on the 20/20 initiative here in an effort to reduce poverty and improve access to social services. Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, task force chair, said the 20/20 initiative is a commitment to the World Summit on Social Development to allocate 20 percent of their Official Development Assistance and 20 percent of their national budget for education, health, population, nutrition and safe drinking water and sanitation.
Gobleth Moulic, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Lawyers vs judge

THREE members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines condemned the actions of Baguio Regional Trial Court Branch 6 Judge Ruben Ayson for exposing the charges he has already filed with the Supreme Court, which they said is a violation of the confidentiality of SC proceedings. In a statement, IBP president Abelardo Estrada, and lawyers Caesar Oracion and Reynaldo Agranzamendez said Ayson should refrain from further publicity so as not to exacerbate the situation the judiciary is already in. The SC issued a gag order after it received the complaint of Ayson against judges in the city for alleged misconduct, corruption and immorality, the statement said.

Wanted man nabbed

BAGUIO CITY—Benguet police arrested Cordillera's third most wanted person on Friday in Aguilar, Pangasinan. Renato Pisec, 25, of Itogon, Benguet, was charged with four counts of rape and acts of lasciviousness before the regional trial court in La Trinidad, Benguet. Arresting policemen PO3 Rafael Fernandez and PO3 Jerry Capongli of the Benguet police said Pisec, who was working as a security guard when he was arrested, had molested two children in 1997 and 1998.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

100th anniversary

THE QUEZON National High School (QNHS) in Lucena City will celebrate its centennial anniversary from Oct. 2 to 20. The commemoration committee has lined up activities for the alumni of Tayabas High School, Quezon Provincial High School, QNHS, friends and families. Graduates/alumni are invited to attend the first general assembly of the foundation. For details, call Perlita Fernandez, QNHS tel. numbers 710-4155/710-6794 and 0918-3599620 and Julieta Tuazon, Lucena City, tel. numbers 710-3019 and 0919-2217999.

Center for disabled

LEGAZPI CITY—A center for disabled persons in Barangay Tagas, Daraga, Albay, was inaugurated on Wednesday to give jobs to persons like the deaf-mute, polio victim and the blind who can still work despite their physical handicaps. Named the Harong Patarabang-tabang Center, the center will offer therapy and cosmetic services to disabled persons. The center is a joint project of the Angelo King Foundation and the Philippine Business for Social Progress.
Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Project Oyster

LEGAZPI CITY—Newly installed Bicol police director Chief Supt. Rodolfo Asel Tor launched the Out-of-School Youth Towards Economic Recovery (Oyster) program, a community-oriented socioeconomic development project. The program aims to help the out-of-school youth by making them productive members of the society. Tor also vowed to continue former PNP Bicol Region Director Enrique Galang's "Si GMA" project and the intensified war against criminality.
Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

N. Ecija to sell cheap rice at ₱11 per kilogram

CABANATUAN CITY—Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III said the provincial government will soon sell rice at P11 a kilo to ease the burden of poor residents.

Joson said the price is P5 cheaper than the P16 a kg of rice sold by the National Food Authority (NFA).

He said the provincial government will buy the rice from the NFA at P15 a kg on a deferred payment basis and distribute it to consumers in Nueva Ecija.

Joson said he has asked the NFA office here to set aside 200,000 cavans of rice for the program.

He said the provincial government will sell the cheap rice until November, the peak of the rice harvesting season.

Joson said he proposed the program in a recent meeting of the provincial development council after he noticed that there wasn't enough cheap rice in the market.

He said well-milled rice is sold from P21 to P25 a kg in the province.

On Sept. 2, President Macapagal-Arroyo visited the warehouses and rice milling facilities of the NFA here.

She said she wanted to know if indeed low-cost government rice has been reaching the poor.

She, however, flared up when NFA officials failed to show her accurate figures on the distribution of NFA rice in the province but said she had proven for herself that NFA rice was available.

In Legazpi City, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor claimed that the NFA has been distributing rice to Coconut Farmers' Food Access Program areas where rice can be bought at P14 a kilo. "However, in the local market where the 'Gloria Labandera Sari-Sari Stores' sell rice, one can buy rice at P16 a kilo," he added. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk with a report from Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

'Lumad' summit skirts sex trafficking

MATI, Davao Oriental—Leaders of various tribes in Davao Oriental will gather here for the two-day Indigenous People's Summit starting Sept. 24.

But the summit has skirted one key issue—sex trafficking of *lumad* girls.

During the summit, tribal leaders would only discuss their "primary concerns" such as the entry of multinational mining and logging companies inside their ancestral lands.

Marilyn Yu-Mon, provincial chief of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples here, said the reason was the *lumads'* sensitivity to the issue.

"Personally, I am afraid to have it in our agenda because the Mandaya natives, for instance, are ashamed to talk about their girls being recruited in urban centers to work as sex workers. In the past, these natives would kill tribe members who were found to be prostitutes," said Yu-Mon.

She said putting the issue on the agenda would be futile.

"I don't think the tribal leaders would discuss that matter during the summit. I know their minds," she said.

Julius Alimbon, a researcher of the NCIP, said because of this, victims of sex trafficking who managed to return home continue to keep their experiences in secret.

"I don't think our families or our tribe would still accept us in our homes if we admit that we were victimized by sex traffickers," a 16-year-old *lumad* girl said.

Yu-Mon admitted that poverty drove the girls into the sex trade.

She said it was easy to lure young *lumad* girls with promises of high-paying jobs.

But instead of jobs, *lumad* girls as young as 12 years old find themselves in brothels or videoke houses.

A number who fled the dens admitted they were enticed by promises of good pay and working conditions.

"We were promised work in the factories. But . . . we became victims of unscrupulous recruiters," a 14-year-old *lumad* girl said.

Yu-Mon said an investigation was made but it failed to unmask the recruiters. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

5 men slain on Camotes Island over land dispute

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Two brothers went on a rampage Thursday, killing five members of a family in a village in San Francisco town on Camotes Island, off the tip of northern Cebu.

The suspects—Jessie Ibot, 34 and Jimmy, 32—are now detained.

The victims who suffered gunshot and hack wounds were identified as Simon Gers[illegible] Sr., 74, and his four sons: Simon Jr., Bienvenido, Julieto and Insiong.

Senior Supt. Maximo Calimlim, acting Cebu provincial police chief, said the Gersalia family sold a lot to an uncle of the Ibot brothers, but failed to vacate it. Pressure from the Ibots for the Gersalias to vacate the land caused the conflict.

San Francisco Vice Mayor Avelino Obenza said Jessie Ibot and Simon Jr. had a heated argument before the killings. Jessie reportedly warned Simon Sr. that he would return to kill them.

Around 5 p.m., Jessie came back with his brother Jimmy on board a motorcycle and armed with .357 caliber pistols.

They first shot Simon Sr., then his four sons. Bienvenido, 45, tried to flee but was chased and hacked to death.

The Ibots dragged the body of Bienvenido to their land to make it appear that the Gersalias started the attack.

Jessie, who suffered wounds himself, surrendered and owned up to the killings.

Police arrested his brother after witnesses said the two of them were behind the attack.

Thousands join rallies throughout Panay against PPA

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Around 9,000 Ilonggos yesterday flocked to the streets and joined an ecumenical prayer-rally in the largest show of protest on Panay Island against the purchase power adjustment (PPA).

Spearheaded by the Catholic Church and other religious groups, local government units and militant organizations, the rally was also the largest since thousands poured out of the streets calling for the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada last year.

In Iloilo City, around 7,000 protesters composed of students, workers, farmers, nuns, priests and urban poor converged at the Rotary Amphitheater to denounce the continued imposition of the PPA.

In Roxas City, Capiz, some 2,000 protesters joined an ecumenical prayer-rally at the city's grandstand. Mass was later celebrated by around 50 priests of the Diocese of Capiz, according to Rev. Fr. Aris Pedrajas, social action director of the diocese.

In San Jose, Antique, the Diocese of Antique launched a diocese-wide signature campaign against the PPA, according to Adel Evangelio of the social action center.

In Aklan, around 150 leaders of religious organizations, militant groups and civic clubs joined a symposium on the PPA at the Public School Teachers Association Building in the capital town of Kalibo, said Rev. Fr. Sauro David, social action director of the Diocese of Aklan.

At the Iloilo rally, protesters came from a cross-section of the community from as far as Sara town, 102 km north of here. Various Christian denominations including the Philippine Independent Church, Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches and the United Church of Christ in the Philippines joined.

"This is People Power again against an unjust imposition," said Jeffrey Celiz, chair of Bayan in Panay and convenor of the People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (Power of Iloilo).

Rev. Fr. Me[illegible] [illegible], director of the Jaro Arc[illegible]san social action center, beh[illegible] TV advertisements with Ms Macapagal saying that Filipinos could now afford to buy electric fans because of lowered electric bills.

"The social director of Basilan told me in jest that in the province, the people sell electric fans in order to have money to pay for the PPA," said Oso.

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo said the rally was a show of "collective voice against injustice, unfairness and inhumanity."

"Please listen, lis[illegible] the cry of the people [illegible]. the c[illegible], of the poor," Lagdameo said, addressing himself to government officials.

Port strike paralyzes cargo loading

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Workers of the Cipres Stevedoring and Arrastre Inc. (CISAI) here have barricaded the gates leading to pier 1, 2 and 3 in Barangay Looc since Thursday to demand more benefits.

The strike adversely affected the cargo-handling operations at the port although passengers were allowed to enter and leave the port premises, said Loving Fetalvero, Philippine Ports Authority Dumaguete port manager.

Boats from Cebu, Siquijor and Manila had to bring their cargo back to their points of origin because these could not be unloaded.

Fetalvero, who assumed as port manager only last month, said he met with the strikers, led by Levi Tambiga, to find out what their demands were. He, however, said he was awaiting instructions from the PPA central office on what to do with the strikers.

The workers, belonging to the CISAI Employees Union-Associated Labor Union, were demanding the full implementation of their Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The union also staged a strike last March over the same demands. The protest action lasted for two weeks until the Department of Labor and Employment issued a return-to-work order to the strikers.

In that order, the DOLE referred the case of the strikers to the National Labor Relations Commission but CISAI lawyer Herbert Timtim said no action has been taken by the NLRC until now.

He said the union and management were scheduled to hold a conciliation meeting in Cebu tomorrow, which might no longer materialize because of the strike.

But Timtim said the management was confused why the workers went on strike when "we were paying them their benefits."

The strikers were demanding the implementation of the employees' benefits under the CBA such as emergency and union leaves, vacation leaves, sick leaves and paternity leaves. The union, however, had no complain over the workers' salary, which is P185 a day.

The union accused the management of outright suspension and dismissal of union members, the non-remittance of Social Security System contributions and of refusing to hold labor-management conferences.

During their strike last March, Vivienne Cipres, CISAI president, claimed that the strike was a smokescreen of the union to pursue their plan to take over the arrastre and stevedoring services at the port.

The union, in a letter to the PPA general manager Alfonso Cusi dated Jan. 29, said in part, "we are informing you in advance of our intention of creating a true and genuine Worker's Enterprise who (sic) will be controlled and managed by the workers themselves."

The union, Cipres said, was allegedly being manipulated by a group that intended to take over stevedoring and arrastre operations at the port. She said this group had very strong and influential political connections.

Cipres, however, did not identify the politicians behind this group, but, she said, "their intentions are very clear."

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PEACE CENTER
Swedish Ambassador Ulf Hakansson (in tie) and directors of the Center for the Promotion of Peace and Development of Mindanao pose in front of the first ever center for peace in Mindanao located in Los Baños, Laguna.

2 cops face ax for 'escape' of colleague in rape

MATI, Davao Oriental—At least two police officers here were suspended after one of their colleagues, who was under restriction for allegedly raping his 14-year-old maid, disappeared from the police office here.

Supt. Catalino Cuy, Davao Oriental police director, announced the 30-day suspension of SPO1 Carpio Bintayao and PO3 Edmundo Ruiz, both of the Mati police office.

Cuy said the two police officers were facing investigation for the "escape" of PO2 Nathaniel Delagua on Sept. 8. Media learned of the "escape" on Sept. 16.

Delagua, had been restricted to camp pending investigation of the charges against him.

Some police officers suspected that Delagua was deliberately freed.

But Mati police chief Supt. Ruque Bunac denied it. "He escaped. He was not freed by his fellow policemen," Bunac said.

But even if they have nothing to do with the escape, Bunac said the two officers would be held liable for negligence.

Delagua was accused of raping his maid on Aug. 23. The girl said she decided to press charges after a policeman-friend vowed to help her.

But she rejected reports she was willing to settle the case. "I want him to suffer the penalty of death," the girl said in an interview with radio station dxHM. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Policeman says 4-yr-old nephew killed his wife

By Gerry T. Pagharion
PDI Visayas Bureau

PANAY, Capiz—A policeman based in this town has claimed that his four-year-old nephew accidentally shot dead his wife using his .45 caliber service pistol inside their house in Barangay Bato here on Sept. 16.

SPO2 Lorenzo Buno, who is scheduled to retire in November, claimed that his nephew Jose (not his real name) was playing with his firearm when it suddenly went off, hitting his wife Lourdes, 52, in the neck.

In an interview, the boy admitted he played with his uncle's gun, which was placed on the bed, when it fired and hit his aunt.

"We were inside the bedroom preparing to go to Mambusao (a town in Capiz) to attend the first death anniversary of my father-in-law when the unfortunate incident happened," said Buno.

He said he did not notice the boy enter their room as he was trying to open a cabinet to get a round of ammunition, which he usually brought along while on duty. His wife was then sitting on the bed, he said.

When he heard a burst of gunfire, he was surprised to see his wife lying in a pool of blood. The boy, on the other hand, was trembling in fear and urinated in his short pants, Buno said.

Buno said he immediately rushed his wife to the St. Anthony Hospital in Roxas City where she died.

The policeman said his wife could have survived had the doctor arrived on time. The doctor arrived an hour later, it was learned.

The Panay police station, headed by Insp. Romulo Bergantinos, conducted an investigation after the gun that killed Lourdes was found missing from the crime scene.

The boy's father had asked that his son be subjected to a paraffin test to determine if he really fired the gun.

But a source, who asked not to be named, said the boy's father had lost interest in pushing for a paraffin test for his son.

Buno said he would file murder charges against the boy when he reaches the age of 18. He said he was so mad at what happened because he and his wife had treated the boy like a son.

Buno now reports to Camp Delgado in Iloilo as a staff member of Operation Gugma, where police officers, who are about to retire, are usually assigned.

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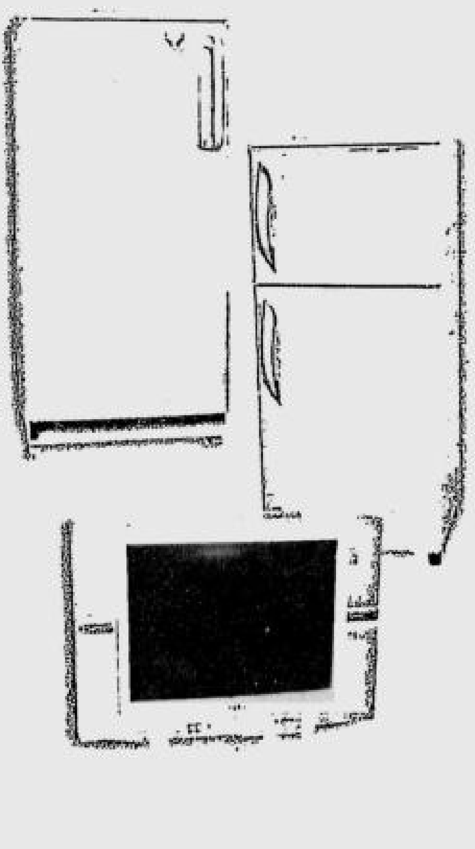

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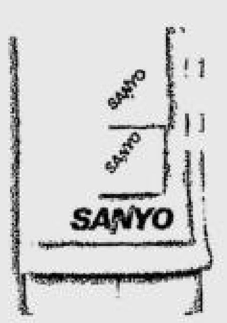

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INQUIRER *Visayas*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel** & *Bureau Chief* **Edralyn L. Benedicto**

Unpopular but right

BREAKAWAY

Ivan Suansing

IT LOOKED like a perfectly executed military operation if you ever saw one.

The attackers silently moved into vantage position, blocked all entry and exit points, and waited for the right time to launch "Operation Clean Sweep."

Then, it was all over—without a single casualty or shot fired.

"Look how big the road is," said Valeriano Avila, Cebu City traffic czar.

City Hall's wrecking crew, reinforced by more than 100 policemen, took just about an hour Tuesday dawn to smash into pieces a 30-year-old landmark: stalls selling religious icons on the sidewalk at the main gate of the age-old Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño.

In City Hall's campaign to improve traffic flow on Osmeña Boulevard, a major artery that cuts across the heart of Cebu City, history and religion are hardly a consideration.

Negotiations

The city government negotiated for months with church vendors, trying all possible tricks and devices to wear them down and make them leave the busy downtown sidewalk in peace, but to no avail.

The last one, just before the demolition, proved to be a political catastrophe.

Hoping to drive away the vendors by taking away their clients, Mayor Tomas Osmeña ordered the main entrance to the Basilica sealed. However, his welders had barely finished putting up steel railings near the church gate when City Hall was buffeted by adverse public opinion.

'Satan'

When the Augustinian fathers, who hold fort at the Basilica, began mentioning from the pulpit "Satan" and "Tomas" in one breath, the mayor knew it was time to repent.

"The pressure was too strong," Mayor Osmeña conceded. One could imagine him anxiously massaging his chest, hoping that those he had displeased didn't pray for another hypertension attack.

For the record, it was the first time the usually resolute executive reversed himself.

Osmeña later explained that he had planned on enforcing the Church blockade for a maximum of three weeks, the estimated length of time the vendors could withstand starvation before looking for another business location.

Disturbance

Devotees of the Sto. Niño, Cebu's designated protector, had no time to listen. It was simply unacceptable that an official, no matter how highly or holy he thought of himself, should disturb the house of God.

But this was clearly one instance when the mercurial mayor was unpopular and right at the same time. The vendors had no business to be where they were. Period.

Traffic is perennially mentioned as a top urban planning concern, cause of many a curse, trigger of road rage, waster of time and oil. Now that City Hall is finally doing something about this problem, should we be complaining?

What Mayor Osmeña still needs to demonstrate convincingly though is his willingness to apply the law equally to all equals, in this case, to all illegal vendors.

More sidewalk stalls, this time built by an election contributor, remain fully erect elsewhere. Unless, these too are leveled, the mayor's motives and sincerity will continue to be questioned.

Martial law

DARK DAYS. I have a vague recollection of this day 30 years ago, when dictator-in-the-making Ferdinand Marcos suddenly appeared on TV to announce the advent of the "New Society."

We were under siege by communists, Marcos said in so many words, and he would save us all.

Just a little over 10 years old, I did feel a pall of gloom descend upon our neighborhood in Lapaz, Iloilo City, also home to the present Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Benjamin Defensor Jr.

I remember my parents telling us we could no longer go to the movie house at night because curfew had been declared and the streets were crawling with soldiers.

Our teachers, on the other hand, kept warning us to respect government officials "especially the president and the first lady," and their programs. Some wisecrack was supposedly jailed for poking fun at Marcos' slogan ("sa ika-uunlad ng bayan, bisikleta ang kailangan"). We took Imelda's "green revolution" seriously.

It was years later when we realized the horrors of military rule. May this dark chapter in our country's history remain just a memory.

Siquijor dances the Solili

By Alex V. Pal
Siquijor, Siquijor

THE bleachers were filled to the rafters as more than a thousand people gathered an hour earlier at the Siquijor Provincial Coliseum. Dr. Concepcion Aljas, a researcher and writer of Siquijor's myths and legends, joined the teachers on stage like she used to when she was still in active service as English supervisor of the Siquijor Schools Division.

But unlike the previous "Araw ng Siquijor" celebrations when she helped manage the Solili dance contest, she was here this time as part of the audience. "My grandson is playing the part of the groom for the Lazi delegation," she beamed excitedly.

Solili—Sayaw sa Binalaye (dance for the daughter-in-law)—Aljas explained, is a dance that was as common as any other wedding custom in Siquijor dating back to the Spanish times. It is rarely performed nowadays but Aljas, now 65 years old, said she still remembers that as a child, she would see the Solili performed after church weddings.

THE SOLILI, a love dance, performed during the Araw ng Siquijor celebration on Sept. 17. ALEX PAL

More than a dance

"This is an indigenous provincial dance, which is different from the Sinulog (a popular worship dance in Cebu in honor of the Señor Sto. Niño). This is a love dance, a thanksgiving dance, which shows the happiness of friends and families of the newlyweds," Aljas said. "Actually, Solili was coined after the Visayan word 'li-li' meaning 'to peep' since this is the first time for most in-laws to get to know the bride."

At a signal, usually after the newlyweds step out of the church, the crowd breaks into a frenzy to the tune played by a *kumparsa* or a rondalla. This dance is performed usually by friends and relatives of the newlyweds.

"This involves two handkerchiefs which is held by the woman," explained Esther Calunod, a teacher at the Lazi Central School. "The dancers make several movements to include an 'eskrima' or mock battle, where the man has to signify his dedication to his new bride by defending her. But the moment of truth is when the girl hands over one of her handkerchiefs to the guy, signifying that she has accepted his love."

Calunod knew this dance too well.

"I saw my father perform this during a wedding when I was a kid," she said.

"Actually, it is the eskrima which makes this dance indigenous to Siquijor," explained Judy Booc, chair of the Provincial Tourism Council. This part of the dance is what won the approval of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts when they certified it as one of the traditional Philippine dances, Booc said.

"I guess the point of the dance is to show how difficult it is to win the hand of the girl," she explained.

The Solili is more than just a dance. It is a reflection of the Siquijodnon's way of life. "It shows that we are fun loving as a people. It also highlights our view of marriage as a happy union—not just of two people but of two families," Aljas said.

The provincial government of Siquijor started to revive and popularize the Solili in 1997, by holding contests every Araw ng Siquijor on Sept. 17. The Solili dance contest is one of the highlights of the three-day celebration which marks the day Siquijor became a separate province from Negros Oriental.

Siquijor was declared as a separate province on Sept. 17, 1971 through Republic Act 6398 sponsored by Negros Oriental Rep. Lamberto Macias.

"We have come a long way," Gov. Orlando Fua Sr. said, recalling the years prior to 1971.

Fua said the clamor to make Siquijor a separate province from Negros Oriental started in 1956, when the smaller island of Camiguin separated from Misamis Oriental.

Dollar-dependent economy

With most of Siquijor's limestone-rich land not suited for agriculture, the main source of livelihood for its 60,000 residents is employment. "We have a 2.8 percent birth rate but the population is not increasing as much because people leave to other provinces to find jobs," the governor said.

With an estimated 10,000 Siquijodnons living and working abroad—with at least 5,000 in the United States—Siquijor's economy is partially kept afloat by foreign currency remittances. "In the 1980s, Siquijor's US dollar remittances ranked second only to the Ilocos region," Fua said. This was largely due to the farmers who were recruited to work in the pineapple fields of Hawaii in 1916 and 1926. "Most of them don't want to come home anymore but they still send money to their relatives here," Fua said.

This explains why every home in the island, however humble, has at least one modern appliance. Siquijor produces six megawatts of electricity but it suffers from occasional brownouts from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. because the power is already insufficient for the demand, the governor explained.

Fua's administration is supporting efforts of Siquijodnons to find jobs abroad, with a P3 million fund for cooperatives to give out as loans. "We have a 90 percent collection rate and this is again channeled back to the cooperatives to help more job seekers," Fua said.

With a vision of self-sufficiency in the years ahead, the Siquijor administration is also positioning the island as a tourist destination.

"People love the wonderful beaches, the ideal climate, and the peaceful environment. In fact, no less than 100 foreigners who married Siquijodnons or Filipinas from other provinces have already established homes here in the island," the governor said.

The coming of age of the youth in West Visayas

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

NOT all teenagers are into sending and receiving text messages, "gimmick" and sexy dancing on TV.

Some can really get serious and willingly discuss the maladies of the times like corruption and cruel teachers, unemployment and absence of youth-friendly health services.

In a recent regional youth consultation held in Iloilo City, participants said that in-school and out-of-school youth, working youth and those with special needs raised a number of concerns that have been lost in the din of voices demanding attention.

These concerns are in the area of survival and development, participation, and protection.

"We're not often heard because of the prevailing age discrimination," said Arnel Gensola, a student of West Visayas State University, who represented in-school youth in the consultation attended by 20 young people.

The National Statistics Office estimated that the youth, ages 15 to 24, are 1.3 million, or 20 percent of the Western Visayas population of about 6 million.

Poverty prevents students from having quality and relevant education, according to Gensola. Due to budget slashes, schools are cutting down on work-and-study programs for poor and deserving students.

Schools have also put less importance on scouting activities because of lack of funds. Schools are not safe havens for youth as evidenced by instances of abuse and harassment from teachers, the participants claimed.

Young people are also complaining of the lack of inadequate health services. While their schools have clinics, only common ailment and dental problems are treated.

"We are coming to terms with our sexuality and reproductive needs. We doubt if school clinics respect our needs and value confidentiality," said Gensola.

No future in farms?

Out-of-school youth worry about the lack of employment and absence of programs for the youth in agriculture.

Mark Quijano of the regional federation of the Philippine Youth Inc. said that while Western Visayas has an agriculture-based economy, young people are leaving the rural areas for the city, finding no opportunities to remain in the farm.

'We're not often heard because of the prevailing age discrimination'

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) also noticed the trend as shown by the increasing number of students enrolled in two to three year computer courses. Skills and courses that require manual labor are not as popular.

The Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), a youth body formed down to the barangay, has turned into another machinery of traditional politicians, said Quijano, citing news reports that politicians have actively intervened in the recently concluded SK elections.

There was also less participation of youth in running the SK affairs. SK activities are limited to basketball tournaments and "bayle" (public dances or disco).

Idle, young people are turning to drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and gambling that would later lead to criminality and other risk behaviors.

In Negros Occidental, young people are being recruited into rebel groups like the Revolutionary Proletarian Army (RPA) and New People's Army. Of the two rebel groups, the RPA is the most aggressive, recruiting and arming young men in the villages, said Albert Camay, an out-of-school youth and member of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement based in Bacolod City.

Marilou Samson said that young women have complained of gender discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace. But many cases were not documented and filed in court.

Anabelle Campo, representative of youth with special needs, raised the issue of helping youth offenders regain their self-esteem and their place in society. Young people with disability are also discriminated against, she said.

The concerns raised by youth subsector representatives were the results of a region-wide consultation held in Iloilo City last year, dubbed Regional PUNK (Pambansang Ugong ng Kabataan).

At least a hundred youth from all provinces in Western Visayas gathered to decide on what pressing issues confront them. In all four sub-sectors, the common issues are poverty and access to reproductive health services. Studies have affirmed the anxiety and some concerns raised by young people in Western Visayas, especially on sexually and reproductive health.

Pressures

At the Visayas-wide conference on AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) in August, Corazon Raymundo, professor at the Population Research Institute of the University of the Philippines-Diliman, said young people face various pressures posed by changes in their environment like urbanization, migration and growth of mass communications, among others.

The problems arising from these changes are largely in their sexual and social behaviors. Raymundo, who coordinated this year's national survey on adolescent sexuality and fertility, said that Visayan youth are increasingly into risk behaviors. Young men and women are neither abstinent nor monogamous.

Condom use is low, however. The 2000 report on the state of population in Western Visayas noted that out-of-school youth and working youth, ages 15 to 24, face a higher risk of teen-age pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and abortion complications.

Young pregnancies account for 17 percent of induced abortion cases, six percent of spontaneous abortion and 3 out of 4 maternal deaths. The report said that teen-age pregnancies account for 74 percent of all illegitimate births among 15 to 24 years old.

The regional youth consultation ended with the organization of the Regional Council for Youth Affairs that aims to coordinate the plans and activities of youth organizations in the region. The council is composed of youth leaders from Negros Occidental, Guimaras, Antique, Aklan, Capiz and Iloilo who are 15 to 24 years old, have working knowledge of youth issues, regardless of gender preferences.

Zenaida Mabugat, regional director of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, said the council would function with less interference from government agencies and politicians because "young people listen to their peers, not the adults."

First Student Entrepreneurs' Fair A Success

The enterprising spirit of the youth was very much alive in the 1st Student Entrepreneurs' Fair entitled "Ano Ba ang Raket mo?" organized by Thames International Business School. The two-day affair at SM Megatrade Hall gathered 38 student entrepreneurs from 21 colleges and universities who successfully passed the rigorous pre-selection process conducted by the Young Entrepreneurs Organization (YEO). After screening and interviewing around a hundred applicants, YEO president, Katrina Limcaoco, said, "We were inspired by what we heard, and were awed by their excellent ideas. They have lots of drive and determination to succeed, which is quite surprising for their age, and many have tremendous potential."

The 38 exhibitors not only inspired the YEO members but also the estimated 7000 visitors who flocked to the fair to see the students' ventures such as plate scrubbers, organic soaps, wallets, coffee wine, bags, custom jewelry, and shoes. Some entered the service industry with ventures such as an advertising agency, a hair saloon, a billiard hall, and a recruitment firm. Two students also set-up their own web communities and earned thru internet advertising.

The highlight of the fair was the awarding ceremonies of the first batch of Ten Inspirational Entrepreneurial Students (TIES) Awards initiated by the Global Filipino Foundation. A select group of judges composed of leaders from the business, media, and government sector were invited to choose this historical first batch of TIES awardees.

Sec. Cito Lorenzo, Presidential Adviser for the Creation of a Million Jobs, and Joel Santos, Director of Thames International Business School, interviewing one of the student exhibitors.

INQUIRER
THAMES
ANO BA ANG RAKET MO?

The judges of the TIES Awards were - (L-R) Francis Lumen (CEO-MTV Philippines), Atty. Mariano Mison (Former Director, National Bureau of Investigation), Rep. Teddy "Boy" Locsin (Congressman, 1st District of Makati), Ms. Marixi Prieto (Chairman PDI), Vivienne Tan (President and CEO of Thames International Business School), Tina Tan (General Manager- SuySing), Lisa Gokongwei (President- Summit Publishing), Hans Sy (EVP – SM Shoemart), Rufi Tiam-Lee (Senior Vice-President- Monde Nissin), and Joel Santos.

Parents should encourage kids to be entrepreneurs

Vivienne Tan, President and CEO of Thames International Business School said that the main inspiration for organizing the 1st Student Entrepreneurs Fair was to provide a venue for students to be inspired by their peers to take on the entrepreneurial path of a job-maker instead of the traditional mindset of a job-seeker. She expressed her belief that advocating the spirit of entrepreneurship is one of the solutions to the country's perennial unemployment problem.

Ms.Tan, however, expressed that aside from being inspired by their fellow students who became entrepreneurs, the parents also play a key role. Most of the student entrepreneurs said that one of their main reasons for starting a business was due to their parents persuading them to explore opportunities.

> "...advocating the spirit of entrepreneurship is one of the solutions to the country's perennial unemployment problem."

Vivienne Tan expounds by saying "How to start your first business venture is the most difficult and daunting decision for a would-be entrepreneur. Imagine how a student entrepreneur feels especially with academic responsibilities to contend with. Supportive parents make a big difference during the start-up phase."

MTV MUSIC TELEVISION
MAGIC 89.9
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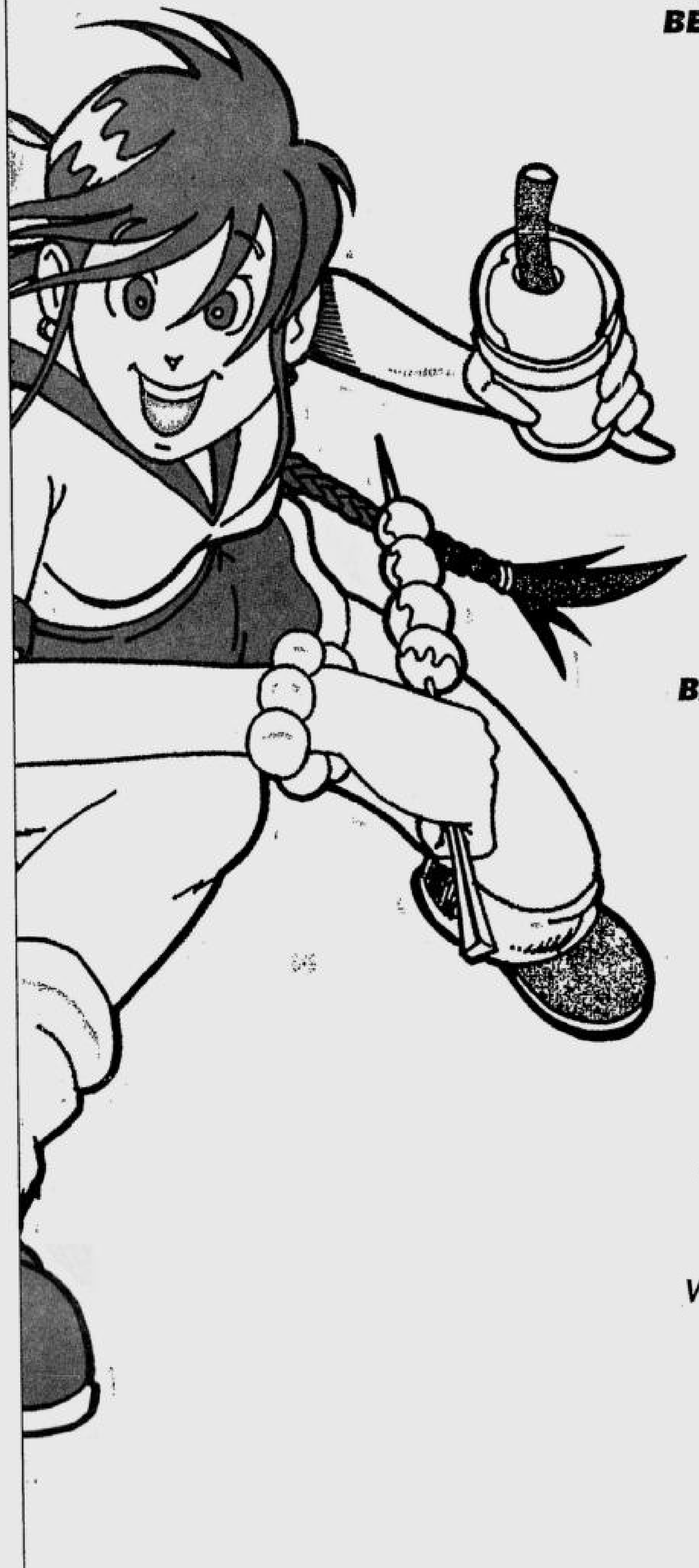
TANDUAY Distillers
FORTUNE Tobacco Corporation

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE 1ST TIES AWARDS (TEN INSPIRATIONAL ENTREPRENEURIAL STUDENTS)



BERNADETTE VILLENA RODRIGUEZ
La Consolacion College
Home Products - Plate Scrubber

JOANNE MARGARET ONG
De La Salle University
Accessories - Wallets

HEGEM CABRERA FURIGAY
University of Asia and the Pacific
Precious Metals - 24K Gold Bars (99.9%) purity

FRITZEFER TAN LEE
College of the Holy Spirit
Accessories - Nameplates

IRA C. BRIONES
Thames International Business School
Personal Care - Organic Soaps

BASILISSA TRINIDAD N. ANTONIO
Assumption College
Food - Character Cakes

ANGELO RAY OBRERO
Thames International Business School
Ornaments - Ornamental Pineapples

INGRID ABIGAIL ONGPAUCO
Ateneo de Manila
Accessories - Adjustable beadmarks, necklaces, bracelets, anklets, earrings

RIDGENN ONG
Miriam College
Shoe Manufacturing - Ladies' leather shoes

***BETHEL VOSOTROS**
Far Eastern University
Wine and Beverage - Coffee Wine Beverage

***MARY CATHERINE LOPEZ**
College of the Holy Spirit
Home Products - D' Husky Lamp

**Tied for tenth place*

The Ten Inspirational Entrepreneurial Students (TIES) Awards was initiated by Global Filipino Foundation to recognize and reward students who epitomize the entrepreneurial spirit. Studies have always shown that entrepreneurship is a major contributing factor to a country's economic well being, particularly in terms of job creation. More entrepreneurs equate to more jobs. Unfortunately, thousands of graduates still troop to companies in the hopes of getting a job. This just worsens the country's growing unemployment problem. The TIES Awardees will hopefully inspire the other students change mindsets and pursue the entrepreneurial path.

GLOBAL FILIPINO FOUNDATION

Special awards: Most Popular Booth - Ivan Kristoffer Yu, Far Eastern University, electronics; Booth with the Highest Sales - Xu Ai Hua, Chang Kai Shek College, ladies' leather shoes.

ADVT.

GRIEVING for the disappeared, their loved ones mostly from Southern Tagalog light a candle at the Bantayog ng Mga Bayani in Quezon City. The memorial was led by the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace and Karapatan.(At right)Father Rudy Romano has been l missing since July 11,1985.

JOAN BONDOC

Marker for missing priest unveiled today

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFD) will unveil today a marker honoring Redemptorist priest Rudy Romano and thousands of others who disappeared during martial law.

"We are hoping that with this marker of Father Romano, the people will forever remember what he did during that period ... that he fought for justice," said Fara Diva Gamalo, a staff member of TFD-Eastern Visayas.

Romano, a native of Villareal, Western Samar, was abducted along with student leader Levi Ybanez on July 11, 1985, by suspected military men in Barangay Labangon, Cebu City,

He was a leader of the militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan at the time of his abduction and was also known in Cebu for his human rights advocacy.

Taxi driver Andres Suson, the lone witness to the abduction, had named Cpl. Wilfredo "Boy" Dagatan of the Military Intelligence Group as one of the armed men who accosted the motorcycle-riding Romano.

Three years later, Suson was shot dead "in mysterious circumstances" in Luzon, where he was then hiding.

Romano's family and the Redemptorist community have declared him dead. But the search continues for his remains.

The marker, about 2 feet high, is located at the left side of the Redemptorist Church on Real Street in this city. Its text reads: "In loving memory of Fr. Rudy Romano and to all martial law victims who sacrificed their lives for the Filipino people."

Romano's mother Adelaida and other relatives are expected to attend the unveiling ceremony.

Fr. Ramon Fruto told the INQUIRER that he and the other Redemptorist priests in the region appreciated the TFD's move to put up a marker for Romano.

"We hope that through this marker, Father Romano's example of commitment to justice, peace and dedication to the poor and oppressed Filipino people will inspire our young people and commit themselves to his ministry," Fruto said.

Gamalo said the TFD had originally planned to erect the marker in Romano's hometown of Villareal, which is about 40 kilometers west of Tacloban, but that Villareal parish priest Msgr. Francisco Cinco said he still had to secure permission from Msgr. Jose Palma, bishop of the diocese of Calbayog City, Western Samar.

Gamalo said Cinco's meeting with Palma was scheduled on Oct. 10 yet, so the TFD decided to put up the marker on the grounds of the Redemptorist Church.

The missing

From page A1

them. While the exact number will never be known, painstaking documentation by human rights organizations list some 70,000 Filipinos detained between 1972, when martial law was declared, and 1986, when Marcos fled into exile. One group estimates that half of that number, or 35,000, were tortured by the military. Many others were summarily executed after arrest. Not one military officer has been brought to justice for those acts.

"*Malupit yung hindi mo nalaman kung anong nangyari* (It's cruel not to know what happened to them)," says Joey Faustino, whose older brother Gerry is still considered missing. "It can drive you crazy."

It was the pain, and the unfinished business of the living, that drove Carmen, Joey and another sibling of the disappeared, the playwright Boni Ilagan, to a grassy graveyard in this city to follow up yet another rumor.

Carmen had recently found out that Ramon's alias, Ka Felix, was allegedly the same one used to identify one of those buried in a common grave here the same year he disappeared. Gerry and Ilagan's younger sister Rizalina were both members of Ramon's activist cell, which was then trying to organize in the Southern Tagalog Region.

Idolized Ninoy

"Even as a young boy, he was always analyzing what was going on around him," says Carmen, explaining why her brother had gone underground. "Growing up, he was always reading. He would also listen carefully to politicians' speeches. He idolized Ninoy." (Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. led the opposition against President Ferdinand Marcos.)

Another younger brother, Alfredo, had also joined the underground movement; he was shot by soldiers shortly after martial law was imposed in 1972 as he was conducting a teach-in with farmers near their home in Lucban. After Ramos disappeared, Carmen recalls, people would tell her parents: "You have six children, why don't you offer the two to the nation?"

Boni felt a special responsibility for Rizalina, a quiet and studious young woman, and the salutatorian of her high school class, who had followed his example as an activist.

When his sister was declared missing at the age of 23, Boni says in Filipino: "The first thing that entered my mind was she had been arrested. I thought, at least we could visit her in jail, because that was my experience when I was jailed. But that didn't happen with my sister. Our search for her went on and on, but we couldn't find her. The military even denied that she had been in their custody."

Shot in the arm

The search for the missing was not without risk. "While you're looking, you had to be careful too, because you could be caught any time," says Bobbie Jopson-Lagman, who was Gerry's girlfriend when he disappeared. "It was a very tense time." She herself joined the underground after his abduction and for three years continued to hope that she would find him in a mountain camp somewhere, so they could resume their relationship.

Instead of checking the growth of the movement, the disappearance of the 10 activists, most of whom had been students at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, stirred many others. Hundreds were said to have dropped out of college soon after and joined the underground. "They spread throughout Southern Tagalog to organize, and Southern Tagalog was never the same again," says Jopson, who surfaced from the underground only in 1996.

The relatives and friends of the 10 met recently to remember them on the 25th anniversary of their disappearance, and finally declare them martyrs. It was especially difficult for those who, having found no remains, could not help but nurse a wild hope that the missing had somehow survived.

For Boni, it was an occasion to confront a pain he had hidden away for over two decades. He resolved to resume his search for clues to his sister's disappearance.

At the 25th-year reunion, Boni issued a challenge to the families, in Filipino: "It's not okay simply to meet each other, and to remember them. I think we need a new resolve to continue the search. Maybe all we will find at the end would be their bones. Maybe we won't even find that. But at least on one level there is closure for us."

Deadend

It was this quest for closure that brought Boni, Joey and Carmen to a secluded, overgrown spot in this city's public cemetery. The resident gravedigger had pointed it out as the place where, 25 years before, military men arrived in two trucks and ordered him to dig a shallow grave for the bodies of seven young people, whose deaths had not been registered at the town hall. One of those bodies, it was said, belonged to a Ka Felix.

But a generation is a long time indeed, and over the years the spot had since been covered by the concrete tombs of other dead. It was impossible to dig through it all to look for the remains. Besides, the visitors were told, the soil in that cemetery made even bones decompose.

It seemed another dead end in a tormented search.

Or perhaps it was simply the end.

A postscript: Some time after the visit to the cemetery, word reached Carmen that Ka Felix was actually the alias of another member of the cell. Ramon, she was told, was known by the alias Ka Philip.

It was still likely that Ramon was among the seven buried in the shallow grave but—25 years after the activists disappeared, 30 years after martial law was declared—the missing continue to be, for Carmen and the rest who survived the lost generation, all too present.

RP 'illegals' live it up in Israeli detention

From page A1

ries like hot coffee, toiletries and even cigarettes.

They are the five undocumented Filipino workers arrested in Israel since it launched a crackdown on illegal aliens two weeks ago. Their accommodations are in sharp contrasts with those of the thousands of Filipinos kicked out of Sabah, who complained of hunger, neglect, abuses and even rape at the hands of their Malaysian guards.

Labor attaché Jeffrey Cortazar reported that the five deportees are living in relative luxury in three-story, "condominium-type detention buildings."

The facility also has a vending machine, access to public phones, a full-time doctor doing daily rounds and two labor officers who process papers to make sure that all job-related claims are paid by employers before deportation.

The male and female deportees live in separate buildings six to a room, which has three double-deck beds with fresh sheets and pillowcases.

In a faxed report to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, Cortazar said the Israeli detention center and the treatment of detainees could be "among the best in the world."

Cortazar said that only eight Filipinos were arrested in the past two weeks, but only five remain in detention. The other three have been released after securing working permits.

The detention facility holds more than 300 detainees composed mostly of Romanians, Chinese, Russians, Turks, Africans, Indians, Thais, South Americans and Filipinos.

Records from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration showed that there are 30,235 Filipinos in Israel, including 21,136 without proper documents.

Foreign debt

From page A1

and lifting the population out of poverty. Had that happened, the Philippines would probably be now rivaling Singapore as Southeast Asia's most advanced and most prosperous country.

As things turned out, however, most of the money, according to investigations undertaken by the Aquino administration and studies by independent think tanks abroad, lined the pockets of the Marcoses and their cronies. The result has been a republic where 75 percent of the population live below poverty line, 30 percent do not have access to health services and sanitation, 30 percent of the children under age 5 are malnourished, and 30 percent of the children are deprived of elementary education.

It is difficult to ascertain how much the Marcoses stole because most of the money were deposited in countries with strong secrecy laws, but few dispute the $10-billion estimate of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

One of the biggest of the Marcos administration's "odious" debts was the $2.3 billion (P119 billion) worth of loans it got to build the Bataan nuclear power plant.

Since construction began in 1977, the government has spent more than $1.2 billion paying for the power plant. Each Filipino taxpayer is now paying over $170,000 a day in interest to an obligation that now accounts for 10 percent of the country's total debts. The national treasurer estimates that taxpayers will have to shoulder another $282 million until the loans are settled in 2018.

Despite this expenditure, the plant has never produced a single watt of electricity. It was declared unsafe and inoperable by a team of international inspectors after Marcos' downfall in 1986. The ill-conceived plant stands just 100 kilometers from Metro Manila, near several earthquake fault lines and at the foot of a dormant volcano.

From the start, the project, which cost three times the price of a comparable plant in South Korea, was plagued by allegations of corruption. Originally estimated at $500 million for two reactors, the entire project ended up costing $2.8 billion for a single reactor, the cost largely padded by commissions that Marcos and his cronies allegedly received.

According to a 1986 New York Times investigation, Marcos allegedly received around $80 million in commissions, through a crony, from Westinghouse Corp., whose winning bid was much more expensive than a proposal from General Electric Corp., which the head of the National Power Corp. recommended.

Marcos was told by one of his ministers that his government, at the price Westinghouse quoted, bought "one reactor for the price of two," yet the transaction pushed through. Marcos overruled his own panel's choice in favor of the much more expensive reactor before Westinghouse had even submitted a detailed bid.

Disini's commission

The Marcos crony who arranged the deal, Herminio Disini, was awarded several lucrative contracts associated with the power plant, went on to live in a castle near Vienna.

Westinghouse acknowledged paying a commission to a Marcos associate but said "allegations of illicitly inflated costs at its nuclear power plant in the Philippines are completely without merit."

According to the lawyer and a banker who negotiated the deal, Disini received payments through a variety of channels.

The best contracts went to Disini's companies, many of them new and inexperienced in the nuclear reactor business. According to documents left behind in the presidential Palace, Marcos also had an interest in Disini's companies.

In one case, Westinghouse helped Disini acquire Asian Industries, its distributorship in the Philippines, with commissions paid to the company for Disini's benefit. In another contract, Disini set up a construction company that was soon named chief contractor for building the reactor. In a third instance, a small insurance company owned by Disini was awarded a $688-million policy on the nuclear plant, the largest ever written in the Philippines.

And finally, Disini received most of his money through a Swiss subsidiary of Westinghouse, which had set up another entity—Westinghouse International Projects Co.—solely to handle the Philippine reactor.

According to a New York Times investigation: "The reason for the complex arrangement with the Swiss concern was that Westinghouse couldn't pay fees directly to Disini without risking charges of bribery under various United States fraud laws or laws requiring corporate disclosure. But there were no similar restrictions in Switzerland."

95 percent to Marcos

The banker who represented Disini in the transaction explained that a special Swiss fund dispensed the money to Disini, Marcos and one or two of Disini's employees, and that Marcos was to receive 95 percent of the fee. "After all, it was Marcos' deal; Disini was just a conduit."

To see the project through, Westinghouse and Marcos had to deflect growing concerns about the safety of the plant, which was sited at the foot of a volcano, in the middle of the Pacific "fire rim" earthquake zone of high seismic activity.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, the international promoter for the nuclear power industry, termed the site "unique to the nuclear industry" and considered the risk of a future volcanic eruption "credible."

The Philippine Atomic Energy Commission, who refused to give the plant—already under construction—a construction permit, was also nervous. Finally, after much wining and dining by Westinghouse and pressure plied by the energy minister, and just one week after the Three Mile Island nuclear accident in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Librado Ibe, the head of the commission, issued the permit and then moved to the United States.

As he explained to Fortune magazine, it was unsafe to resist Marcos' lieutenants for too long.

Centralized corruption

Marcos could not have accumulated his offshore estate had he restricted his means.

Hardly any government institutions were beyond his power: where none existed to serve his interest, he created them.

"Corruption was centralized as never before and was, thus, carried on more efficiently," an independent Filipino research team learned. "Vast legislative powers Marcos accorded himself through Proclamation No. 1081 placed him in a vantage position to spot lucrative deals, then wheel and deal through his cronies who also held important government posts."

The government-owned Philippine National Oil Co. was also placed at the service of Marcos and of his energy minister, Geronimo Velasco, who is believed to have siphoned off millions of dollars in illegal kickbacks and rebates from the company.

Velasco, according to the head of the Commission on Audit set up by the Aquino administration, "took a staggering amount. We really don't know how much it was, or how much went to Marcos, because for all these years, PNOC was never audited."

Recently, the $17-million Swiss account of Velasco with two other relatives was unfrozen, according to Swiss authorities. The PCGG plans to appeal the decision of the Zurich district attorney.

PNOC, the country's largest business enterprise, was set up by Marcos during the oil crisis in 1973 and was specifically exempted from normal auditing controls by presidential decree.

The absence of regulatory and public oversight allowed Velasco to defraud the enterprise he ran. Whenever he chartered tankers to bring crude oil to the Philippines, Velasco would add a 5-percent commission to be kicked back and paid through the treasurer of a shadowy Filipino firm who would deposit the money in banks in Hong Kong and the United States.

Velasco would use a similar scheme when PNOC bought insurance for each tanker voyage from an insurance company owned by another notorious Marcos crony.

The PNOC routinely paid more for its tanker insurance than its competitors.

PNOC also paid 10 percent more than the going price for three oil tankers the company bought from Japan in 1974 and 1975. This purchase was believed to have come from a $400-million discretionary fund, called the "Oil Industry Special Fund," over which only Velasco and Marcos had authority. Tariffs on imported oil kept the fund full.

Memory sites for martial law victims, heroes and martyrs

By PDI Research

EDSA SHRINE

EDWIN BACASMAS

1. **PEOPLE POWER MONUMENT OF EDSA** was built during the incumbency of former President Fidel V. Ramos to commemorate the courage and vigilance demonstrated by thousands of Filipinos against the Marcos dictatorship. From Feb. 22 they converged starting from the site near Camp Aguinaldo where the monument was built.

2. **OUR LADY OF PEACE SHRINE** likewise was built to commemorate the valor and faith of the Filipinos who had suffered enough from the dictatorial rule. It was at the corner of Edsa and Ortigas where Filipinos stood side by side, some of them kneeling holding their rosaries and in prayer, persuading the battalions of Philippine Marines aboard armored assault vehicles, to stop from attacking Camp Aguinaldo and those people protecting it.

3. **BANTAYOG NG MGA BAYANI 1, 2 & 3** were built by the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation in memory of the thousands of Filipinos who sacrificed their lives to fight for democracy from 1972 to 1986 or the period of martial law. All are situated at the corner of Quezon Avenue and Edsa in Quezon City. The first is a monument of human-like feature with uneven length of limbs spread up high while the second is a sculpture of a woman with her right hand reaching out and her left hand holding the left arm of a man lain in apparent anguish and despair. The third is a granite wall which has 109 names of Filipinos who died fighting for our freedom under Marcos.

4. **MUSEUM OF COURAGE AND RESISTANCE** or Martial Law Museum was inspired by the courage and defiance of the thousands of Filipinos, especially the poor, some professionals, the youth, the peasants and the fisherfolk, the religious and the lay who sacrificed their lives to help liberate us from bondage of the Marcos dictatorship. It is a repository of well documented cases of human rights violation during the martial law regime. It likewise keeps martial law memorabilia such as handcrafts made by political detainees, martial law posters and pictures of human rights atrocities. It is housed at the National Center of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines in Quezon City on 19 Malingap St., West Teachers Village, Quezon City.

5. **ALEX ORCULLO MEMORIAL PARK** was built in memory of the man who courageously disclosed the ills and terror of martial law in Mindanao as a journalist. He was dragged by Davao militiamen under the control of the military to a plantation despite the pleadings of his wife and executed on Oct. 19, 1984.

6. **MEMORIAL STONE IN MEMORY OF THE STAFF AND MEMBERS OF TASK FORCE DETAINEES OF THE PHILIPPINES** who laid down their lives for the ,people's emancipation and human rights from the year the organization was founded in 1974 until the present. It has listed 14 men and women, two of them religious.

7. **FIND's MONUMENT TO THE DISAPPEARED** was unveiled on July 11, 1994. It was built in the grounds of the Redemptorist Church in Baclaran, Parañaque City to serve as a reminder of the hundreds of victims of involuntary disappearance during the martial law regime. Also called Flame of Courage. Etched are the names of 1,600 disappeared during and after Marcos' time.

8. **ESCALANTE MASSACRE MONUMENT** was built in memory of at least 27 sugar peasants massacred while staging a peaceful demonstration in Escalante, Negros Occidental (now city) on Sept. 20, 1985. According to a doctor who tried to save the wounded, many of them were shot at the back, with a number of them even lying down which suggests that the victims were killed while begging for their lives.

9. **MONUMENT OF JOAQUIN 'CHINO' ROCES** was built in memory of the courage demostrated by the "grand old man" of Philippine journalism. It was a scene of Joaquin Roces half kneeling and holding a cross in defiance of the anti-riot policemen who directed water cannon at him and other demonstrators on the foot of Mendiola Bridge near Malacañang.

10. **NINOY AQUINO'S MONUMENT IN PASEO DE ROXAS, MAKATI CITY**

11. **The CAUAYAN PARK MEMORY MARKER** which was to be unveiled yesterday in honor of the nine teenagers in a massacre committed by the Philippine Constabulary in Barangay Inayawan, Cauayan, Negros Occidental on May 16, 1983. They were accused of stealing ballot boxes and without having been proven guilty, were nabbed and massacred by the Constabulary.

12. **AGDAO MARTIAL LAW MEMORIAL MARKER** will be unveiled today in commemoration of the massacre of 13 people in front of the Sto. Niño Chapel in Agdao, Davao City on Dec. 2, 1984. Four of the victims died while the rest were wounded. A paramilitary group under the command of the barangay captain then was believed to have committed the crime.

13. **VILLAREAL MEMORY SITE** was to be installed yesterday in memory of Fr. Rudy Romano, a staunch human rights protector who was kidnapped by an armed group on July 11, 1985 in Cebu City. The site is likewise being installed in honor of the courageous Villareal and Western Samar people who struggled for human rights, justice and freedom during martial law.

14. **A MEMORIAL STONE at the BAHAY NA TISA.** A memorial stone will be built to commemorate the many and meaningful meetings and discussions conducted by activists and members of the Kabataang Makabayan in the early '70s even prior to the martial law declaration. It will be installed on Nov. 30, 2002, Bonifacio Day.

15. **MOLAVE MEMORIAL STONE** will be installed on Dec. 10, 2002 in honor of those who suffered, fought and died during the Marcos dictatorship in Molave, Zamboanga del Sur. The collaborative effort among priests and lay workers from the Diocese of Pagadian led by Bishop Zacarias Jimenez and TFDP.

NEVER AGAIN

Rem
MARTIAL R

MONUMENT to the Edsa I Revolt memorializes the power of the people that dismantled the Marcos dictatorship.

JOAN BONDOC

From page A1

ing vestiges of Marcos' 14-year rule, which was marked by the imprisonment, disappearance and killing of tens of thousands of student activists, critics and opposition leaders.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, former spokesperson of the underground National Democratic Front, noted the long-term impact of martial law.

He said that 30 years after it was imposed, "the martial law mindset—of using legal shortcuts and violating human rights with impunity—continues to rule in the Armed Forces and the PNP."

Pampanga Rep. Oscar Rodriguez, a human rights lawyer and a former political prisoner, said the "darkest, most terrible chapter in the history of our nation" was still evident in the culture of graft and corruption and political opportunism as well as in the bad state of the economy.

Pimentel pointed out that the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, which came to power on a pledge of good governance and high moral standards, was now "rocked with scandals and rampant graft and corruption that have greatly undermined public trust and alienated its allies and supporters."

He urged the President to stop "her preoccupation with politics, her emphasis being on activities that are designed to boost her 2004 election bid at the expense of her primary duty of solving pressing problems."

Authoritarianism

Militant groups led by Sanlakas yesterday converged at the historic Mendiola Bridge to mark the martial law anniversary and protest the administration's "drift toward authoritarianism."

Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said the protest rally was intended "to remind the people about martial law's irredeemable social costs, and inform them of the present dangers being posed by GMA's obsession with a 'strong republic.'"

"Thirty years have passed since martial law was declared, yet militarism is still very much intact," he said. "Under GMA's strong republic, militarism remains a major tack."

The other groups who took part in the mass action were the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP), Partido ng Manggagawa, Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Lungsod, Peace Camp, Kalayaan, Women Rage!, Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Manggagawang Pilipino and Aniban ng Manggagawa sa Agrikultura.

The protesters carried posters with the images of the President and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes taken from their controversial "Men in Black" pose for the cover of the Tatler magazine, but with a twist: The two held firearms above the caption "MIB: Militarism Is Back."

Also in the poster were National Security Adviser Roilo Golez and Metro Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando, both smiling and cocking rifles.

Fortaleza said the President's "strong republic" would require the use of strong-arm tactics against labor unions, vendors and urban poor reminiscent of the tactics employed by Marcos.

BMP president Victor Briz said his group had drawn up plans to "counter" the "anti-labor policies" supposedly contained in Ms Macapagal's declaration of war against terrorism, the Left and militant trade unions, or those who, in her words, "terrorize factories."

"Gloria is using the US-led war on terrorism and her local version of a 'strong republic' as a guise to clamp down on trade unions," Briz said.

He said the urban poor sector was also preparing for the "imminent threat of demolition campaigns," particularly in areas affected by government projects, and clearing operations in places considered danger zones.

Sidewalk vendors currently in a stand-off with the MMDA are also preparing to take their case against Fernando to Malacañang.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said Filipinos must never allow the reimposition of martial law.

"Civil liberties and good government must be fought for and protected at all cost," she said.

Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda called on the Filipino youth "to be very mindful of the lessons of the past so that they will be better equipped to face the present and the future."

She said that while time and history would be the ultimate judge of Marcos, "the young members of Philippine society should be encouraged by their elders to study the Philippines' martial law experience so that they will be concerned about the affairs of the nation."

"It is saddening that unlike the youth of the First Quarter Storm, our children seem to have little interest, if any, in what's happening to our country," Legarda said in a statement. "Even in state colleges, which used to be the bastion of the untrammeled exchange of ideas, students now seem more concerned about the latest fads and crazes."

Ebdane said that besides the lessons from martial law, the military and police should also seek lessons from the failed coup attempts mounted by the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa against the Aquino administration.

"After martial law, we had a series of coup attempts and we even fought against our classmates," he said. "In 1986, we were rebels. In 1987, '88 and '89, we were fighting our classmates on the other side of the camp. That might be a lesson to us. We must fight our enemies, not our friends."

Ebdane said he hoped there would be no repeat of the failed coups because some of the military officials involved were now "back in the fold of the government" or had retired. "Most of them, in fact, are acting as advisers," he said.

Political prisoners

In Legazpi City, Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said the administrations that succeeded martial rule were no different from the Marcos regime.

Beltran, a long-time activist, said there were still political detainees under the present administration. In Bicol alone, said the native of Bacacay, Albay, 12 such detainees were languishing behind bars.

The Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFD) yesterday reported that eight more suspected communist insurgents had been added to the growing list of political prisoners as of Aug. 30, bringing the total to 197 detained in 63 jails all over the country.

"The increase only indicates that there are still traces of martial law activities under this administration," said Leonor Gomez, TFD deputy executive director for operations in the Visayas.

The new detainees are all women, one of whom has a daughter staying with her in a jail in Negros Occidental, Gomez told the INQUIRER.

Irene Plagtiosa, 24, has been detained at the Kanlaon City jail since February 2000, when she was implicated in the killing of a policeman allegedly by members of the New People's Army.

But Gomez said Plagtiosa was a civilian working as a sales clerk in a rattan furniture shop. She said the health of Plagtiosa's year-old daughter was in peril because both of them were sharing a cell with another detainee afflicted with tuberculosis.

"(Plagtiosa's) case is just one among the many instances of arbitrary arrest by the government," Gomez said.

She assailed the administration for supposedly harping on the supposed release of political detainees as a "concession" in peace negotiations with the NDF.

Punishment

"If indeed democracy prevails in the Philippines, the President should unconditionally release all political prisoners for the sheer value of human rights," she said.

In Sorsogon City, some 3,000 people led by victims of human rights violations during martial law are expected to mount a protest rally today at the Capitol grounds.

In a statemenr, Karapatan-Sorsogon called for the punishment of the perpetrators of crimes during martial law, the indemnification of about 10,000 victims of military abuse, and the upholding of the US District Court decision in Honolulu ordering Marcos' heirs to pay $2 billion to the victims of human rights violations.

The group also said Marcos' martial law and Ms Macapagal's all-out war policy were the same because the abuse of human rights was continuing.

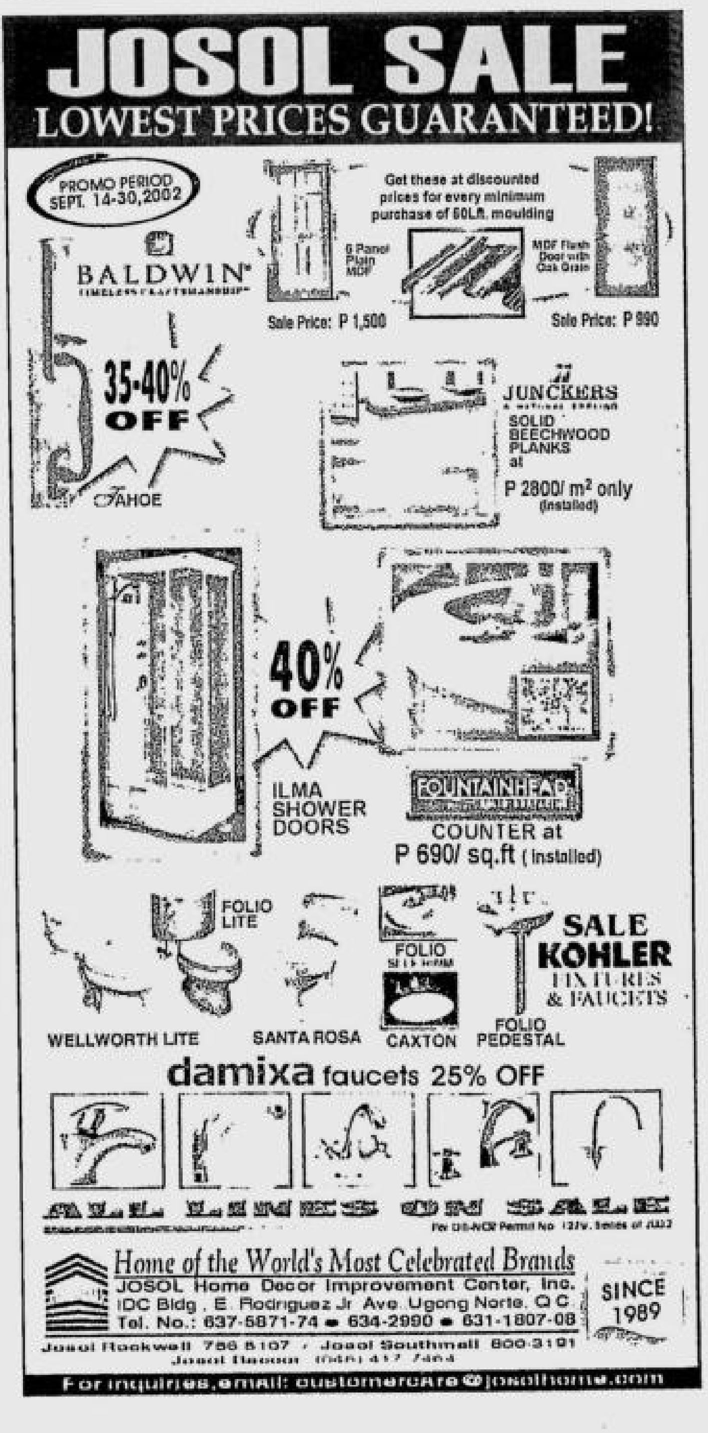
According to Karapatan records, there are 1,045 victims of human rights violations. Of the number, 150 were summarily executed.

Bayan Muna's Beltran also said the administration's anti-terrorism bill was patterned on the international terrorism bill defined by the US government.

In Laguna, Bayan Muna-Southern Tagalog denounced on Thursday the political repression and killing of its leaders and members.

It said that as of last July 27, a total of 19 were killed, 15 of whom were from Mindoro Oriental.

It also disclosed that a total of 32 cases of human rights abuse, including torture, harassment and indiscriminate firing, had been documented. *Reports from Rocky Nazareno, TJ Burgonio, Agnes E. Donato, Gerald G. Lacuarta and Christian V. Esguerra in Manila; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Ronnie Lorejo, Emir Gamis and Clarice Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*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Seized Marcos assets slowly disappearing

From page A1

gious icons (now only 48); antiques, furniture and Oriental artworks estimated at $750,000 by Christie's; 27 Malang paintings, of which only 17 remain; and other paintings by Ang Kiu Kok, Fernando Amorsolo, H.R. Ocampo, Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Carlos "Botong" Francisco, Alfredo Baldemor, Jose Joya, and other important Filipino artists.

The shrine, which used to house the celebrity guests of Mrs. Marcos, has been turned into a museum and a tourist attraction.

"Past official reports reveal that in 1994, the staff of Imelda Marcos were allowed by the PCGG personnel to take out of the shrine valuable works of art and other furniture items," Avena said in her report to the PCGG.

She said that Mrs. Marcos was able to get back many of the icons with the connivance of certain PCGG personnel.

She also found out that of the 27 Malang paintings stored in the Shrine, only 17 remained in the PCGG possession.

Shock

Another shocking discovery for her was that out of the 25 persons receiving compensation in Leyte for taking care of these precious assets, "only one (was) an official PCGG employee."

"The rest are volunteers," said Avena, who is in charge for legal affairs and asset management.

And who are these so-called volunteers? Could they be linked to the staff of Mrs. Marcos? Nobody knows.

Avena said that the PCGG is now looking into ways by which this could be corrected, including a "procedure by which the "volunteers' can be legally absorbed as government personnel in compliance with government regulations."

Also, in an audit by the Commission on Audit in 2000, it was discovered that no official receipts had been issued for income received in the Sto. Nino Shrine derived from tourists.

Financial transactions were also not properly recorded, Avena said.

Violations continue

Those violations discovered by COA two years ago "continue to this day," she said.

The PCGG is now looking into the various violations of government accounting, auditing and other rules and regulations on the Marcos sequestered properties in Tacloban City, particularly the Sto. Nino Shrine, the Nipa Hut Complex, and the People's Center and Library, which has been leased out as a trade fair venue in recent years

Avena said that a special team from COA would be conducting an audit anew on these properties.

"To determine the status of these assets, the commission will be continuing its inspection tour, to include other properties in Region 8." Avena said.

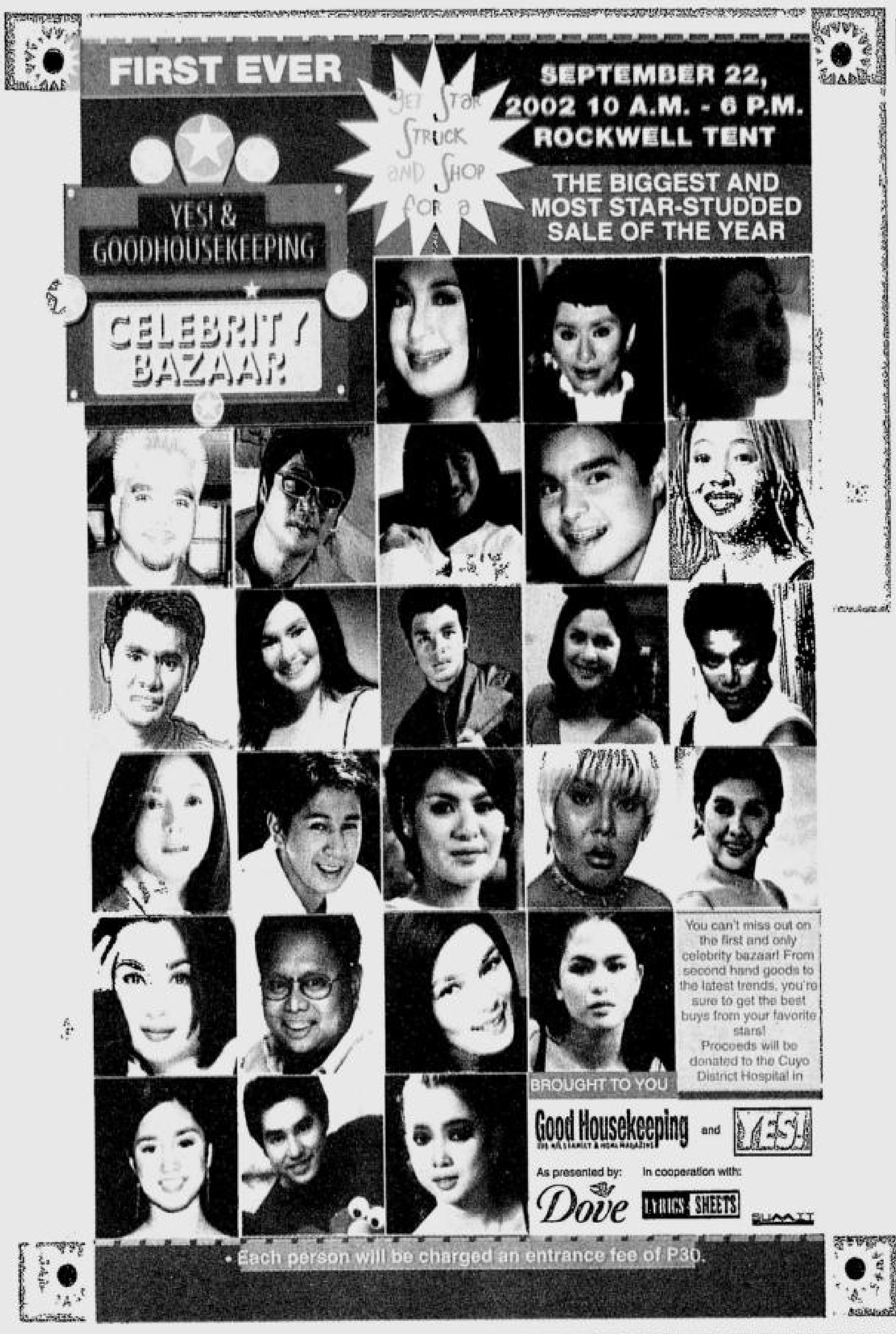
Among the Marcos assets also valuated by the renowned auction house, Sotheby's of London, in 1990 were 78 sequestered precious 18th century and 19th century religious icons which were part of the collection of Imelda Marcos and also housed at the Sto. Nino Shrine. These pieces were estimated (saleroom estimated value) to be at least worth $58,390 or at most $85,520 12 years ago. The amounts would definitely be more than $100,000 now.

The Sotheby's people never got to look at the actual icons but valued these photographs from photographs taken in Leyte.

Highest-priced icons

Among the highest priced icons then were the following: an icon depicting Festivals, 19th century, valued then at $1,500 to $2,250; an icon of the Ascension and Festivals, 19th century, valued from $1,500 to $2,250; another 19th century icon depicting Festivals valued from $1,200 to $1,800; a 19th century icon of the Virgin from a Deisis (with a silver cover) valued from $1,050 to $1,350; a 19th century icon of the Virgin and Four Saints with a silver cover, $1,200 to $1,500; a 19th century four-part icon, $1,200 to $1,500; three 19th century icons of the Saviour with a silver cover valued from $1,200 to $1,500 each; an icon of the Saviour on a silver and enamel cover, $1,200 to $1,500; and an icon of the Tikhvin Virgin on a silver cover, $1,050 to $1,500.

In 1990, Sotheby's, also meticulously inventoried and valuated Russian silver, jewelery, European ceramics, Chinese ceramics, and pictures or paintings, valuing them at a low of $16,952,793 to a high of $23,909,526. And those were prices 12 years ago.



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Qatar women make Asiad history

DOHA, Qatar—Seven women from the tiny oil-rich state of Qatar will take a giant leap into the record books at the Asian Games—win or lose—as they will become the first female athletes from the Arabian Gulf Muslim state to be allowed to take part in the Asiad. *AFP*

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◉ *Associate Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

FOUR DIGIT
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(In exact order)
SUERTRES
1 7 4

MEGALOTTO 6/45
3 20 31 39 41 44

PBA COMMISSIONER'S CUP

Thunderous Red Bull wins it all

Talk N Text a gallant runnerup though after missing another shot at glory

By June Navarro

BATANG Red Bull threw caution to the wind and fought on all cylinders to beat Talk N Text, 67-60, and retain the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup last night before an overflow crowd at the Araneta Coliseum.

Pint-sized Jimwell Torion showed the heart of a champion as the pesky playmaker stole a couple of loose balls amid the Phone Pals' fiery windup and drained the game-clinching triple that paved the way for the Thunder's second crown in only eight conferences in the league.

Torion fired a trey way out of the three-point line with 1:31 left that found its mark and dashed the hopes of the Phone Pals, who, for the second time, missed their first-ever title in a six-year stint with the league.

"In the end, it was our championship experience that pulled us through. In a Game 7, it's actually the desire of the players that count and not the skill of the coaches," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao after claiming his fourth title in six championship tries.

Guiao's fourth crown put him alongside the late Ed Ocampo, now-Senator Robert Jaworski Sr. and current national team and San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico with the same number of titles won.

"It was by far the most difficult Finals series I'd gone through. I would like to pay tribute to Talk N Text for giving us not only 40 minutes of hell out there but seven games of excruciating basketball," said Guiao.

With the win, the Thunder became the third team since 1988 to successfully defend a championship, joining Alaska (which won the Governor's Cup from 1994-97) and San Miguel Beer (which won the Commissioner's and Governor's Cup titles in 1999 and 2000) on the list.

On the other side of the court, the Phone Pals got hit by lightning twice after they lost to Shell during Game 7 of the 1998 Governors Cup despite winning Game 5.

Davonn Harp, who had a double-double performance together with Sean Lampley and Julius Nwosu, shared the Finals' MVP honors with Torion.

These guys are primarily responsible for inflicting the Phone Pals a great deal of pain as they joined forces in the second half.

" I had some doubts when we lost Game 5 but these guys picked up the slack and removed the uncertainties that I had," said Guiao.

The tough defense put up by both teams resulted to an all-time low combined total in a final game (127 points) and the lowest winning output (67).

The Thunder allowed Pete Mickeal to frolic in the final half but shut down Jerald Honeycutt through the smothering defense of Harp.

Honeycutt, who averaged 22 points per game in the series, was limited to 12 points and six rebounds, a performance that also mirrored the lackluster plays of the entire Talk N Text local crew.

Mark Telan, Donbel Belano, Kenny Evans, Elmer Lago and Gilbert Demape had stopped scoring for the Phone Pals midway in the third quarter that put much of the scoring load on their imports.

In the first half, Talk N Text coach Bill Bayno got infuriated for a non-call on Mark Telan, who was hacked by Torion on his way underneath the basket.

Bayno stormed onto the court and vilified referee Ernie De Leon who turned a blind eye on the scene that unfolded inches away from him.

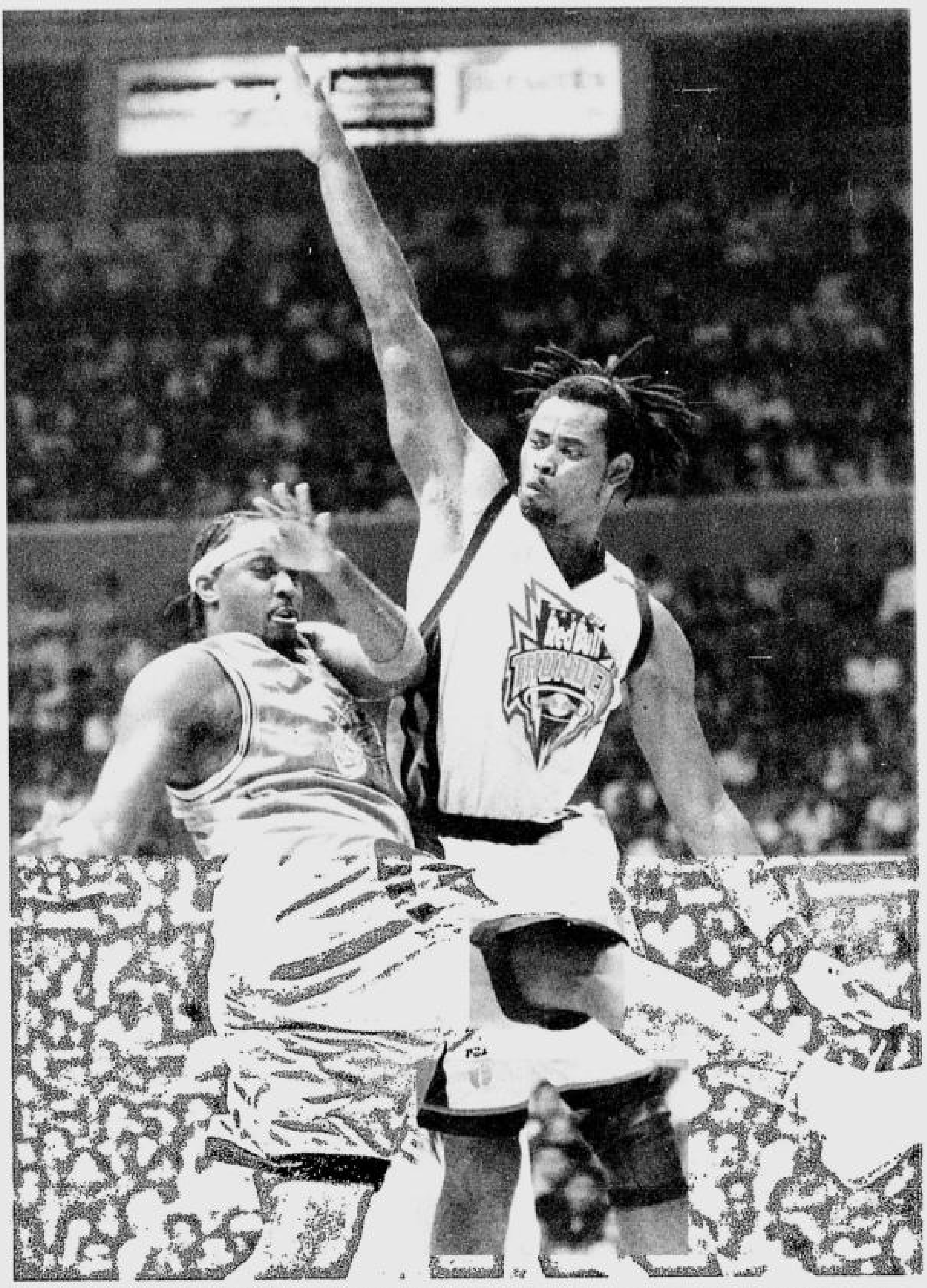
Bayno fetched a technical for his demeanor but the Thunder failed to cash in as Willie Miller missed both technical freethrows.

Scores:

RED BULL 67—Lampley 18, Nwosu 16, Harp 15, Torion 9, Miller 5, Reyes 3, Villoria 1, Tugade 0, Valenzuela 0.

TALK N TEXT 60—Mickeal 27, Honeycutt 12, Telan 9, Demape 7, Lago 5, Crisano 0, Belano 0, Pablo 0, Fran 0, Evans 0.

Quarters: 17-9, 33, 27, 53-50, 67-60.



JULIUS Nwosu of Red Bull (right) forces Jerald Honeycutt of Talk N Text to lose the ball in this bit of action during their PBA game last night at the Araneta Coliseum. Red Bull won, 67-60, to retain the PBA Commissioner's Cup.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Philippine Army bags Asean shooting crown

THE PHILIPPINE Army bagged the championship in the Rifle Shooting Competition both in team and individual categories during the recently concluded 12th Asean Armies Rifle Meet in Singapore.

Singapore ranked second followed by Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia.

Corporal Rocky Pardilla and Sgt. Eric Guiniling who bested 77 shooters from nine Asean participating countries garnered the first and second place, respectively, in the individual category.

Other members of the Philippine Army team who landed in the Top 10 were Cpl. Roweno Baquiroza, Cpl. Alvi Anselmo Tawagon and Cpl. Rodney Rizano.

The annual event, participated in by member-nations of the Asean, serves as a venue for skills and training exchange in shooting competition among the participants.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Dionisio R. Santiago commended and declared continued support to the Philippine Army team headed by Col. Herbert Avinante during the awarding ceremony held at the Nee Soon Camp in Singapore. *RL*

RP darters Asian champions

THE PHILIPPINE Dart team put up a scintillating performance in the recent 11th Asia-Pacific Cup Darts Championship in Bangkok, bagging two gold medals and a silver in the five-event finals.

The national team composed of Dixie Ybanez, Robert Reyes, Celso Parfan III, Joseph Domanais, Baby Villanueva and Janice Ilinojales upset the highly favored New Zealand team, 4-2, in the exciting best-of-seven six-member team event finals to win the gold.

In the next event, Villanueva and Hinojales upstaged the much-touted pair of Janette Jonathan and Megan Windle, also of New Zealand, with a come-from-behind victory, 4-3, in the women's doubles finals to pocket another gold for the RP team.

Ybanez and Reyes also figured in the men's doubles finals but settled for the silver. A much experienced tandem of Graham Hunt and Anthony Fleet of Australia overwhelmed the Filipino duo, 3-4.

Lawyer Andrew Arrieta, president of the Darts Council of the Philippines (DCP), said the good showing of the RP team indicated they are now ready for the Dart World Cup in France next year.

The RP team participation in the Asia-Pacific Cup, a sanctioned event by the World Darts Federaton, the world governing body in the sports of dart with 55 member countries, was made possible by Philippine Sports Commission and the DCP, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Toby's Sports, adidas Philippines and Nike Philippines.

PBL semifinal cast known

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

GOLF: PGA Europro Tour 2002 Highlights at 9:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
LPGA First Union Betsy King Classic at 3 p.m. on ESPN
LPGA Wendy's Championship for Children at 4 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
POOL: World Professional Pool Championships 2002 at 12:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
TRIATHLON: ITU World Cup 2002 at 10:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 11:30 a.m. (r - 6 p.m.) on Star Sports

GAMES TOMORROW *(Pasig Sports Center)*
2 p.m.–Casino vs John-O
4 p.m.–Hapee vs Blu

CASINO Rubbing Alcohol and Blue All Purpose beat their respective opponents yesterday to enter the semifinals of the PBL-CBF Dual Meet at the Pasig Sports Center.

Casino routed GMC-Tortillos, 79-66, while Blu All Purpose stopped Montaña, 97-90.

The semifinals will begin tomorrow, with Casino meeting John-O at 2 p.m. and Hapee battling Blue at 4 p.m.

The cross-over semi-finals will be aired live over NBN-4.

The Alcohol Masters sped to a 25-10 start took the half, 42-28, and never looked back from there.

Hewitt gives Australia 1-0 margin

ADELAIDE, Australia—World number one Lleyton Hewitt eased past Harsh Mankad, 6-1, 7-6, 6-1, to give Australia a 1-0 lead over India in their Davis Cup world group qualifier on Friday.

Hewitt proved too good despite a second set rally by Mankad and wrapped up the match at Memorial Drive in 99 minutes to put Australia in front in the best-of-five tie.

Australia's Wayne Arthurs was due to meet Indian veteran Leander Paes in Friday's second singles rubber. At stake is a place in next year's 16-nation World Group or relegation to the second tier.

Hewitt looked on course for a crushing win against the lowly ranked Mankad as the Wimbledon champion raced through the first set in 26 minutes.

But Mankad improved in the second set, drawing the Australian into rallies. *Reuters*

Butterfly table tennis tilt today

THE BUTTERFLY national table tennis age-group championships reel off today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Presented by Butterfly, the world famous brand of table tennis equipment from Japan, the event will determine the national ranking of the 18-and under netters.

Vic Valbuena, president of the Table Tennis Association of the Philippine, said the tournament is the biggest age-group event to be staged by Tatap in the last 10 years.

Valbuena said winners of the two-day affair will then be singled out to comprise the future of table tennis in the country.

He thanked Sonia Trading, which exclusively distributes Butterfly table tennis equipment in the country.

Used in international table tennis championships like the world and European championships, Butterfly features rubbers and blades that are considered by the nation's star players as superior in quality and thus preferred by the world's best players.

Bata enters finals of Subic Masters

REYES

By Dennis U. Eroa

SUBIC—Filipino ace Efren "Bata" Reyes recovered from a second set setback to down US Open champion Corey Deuel, 5-3, 3-5, 5-1, last night and enter the Cafe Puro Masters Challenge finals before an enthusiastic crowd at the Subic Yacht Club.

Reyes was ahead, 3-2, in the second set when Deuel came back strongly, winning the 6th to 8th racks to force the decider.

But Reyes, fresh from winning the inaugural Asian 8-Ball tournament in Singapore, kept his poise to frustrate the American's bid for a come-from-behind victory.

"My game suddenly became soft in the second set. I'm just glad that my breaking has improved a lot. Corey did not go down without a fight," said Reyes. Reyes dominated Deuel in the elimination, 5-0, 5-3, but Deuel played with new-found vigor hoping to upstage the Filipino legend.

Reyes will later meet the winner of the other half of the semis, featuring elimination topnotcher Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Finland's Mika Immonen, for the title. The champion in this four-day tournament will pocket $10,000, with the loser winning $7,500.

Reyes raced to a 4-0 lead in the decider, but a mishit on the five ball gave Deuel a glimmer of hope.

Among the notable viewers were SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo, who stressed that proceeds of the tournament will go to the education of 100 Aetas, and Zambales Rep. Ruben Torres.

Also present were tourism head Armin Santos, Ms Daisy Payumo, Jose Mari Vargas of the Subic Yacht Club and investors.

Putch Puyat of the organizing Puyat Sports also graced the final day of competition.

NCAA CHAMPIONS

Stampeding Stags snare it anew

Benilde was practically out of it with still plenty of time left

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAN Sebastian College held College of St. Benilde scoreless in all but the last two minutes of the fourth quarter last night to score an 86-69 win and capture its second straight NCAA men's basketball championship.

The Stags' unforgiving defense prevented the usually sharp Blazers' gunners from scoring in the first seven and a half minutes of the payoff period.

San Sebastian complemented that defensive brilliance by unleashing 20 points to seal the 2-0 sweep of their best-of-three series.

That mother of all defenses also allowed San Sebastian to coast trouble-free to its 11th title, which tied it with San Beda. The only other teams with more titles tucked under their belts are Letran and Ateneo with 14 crowns apiece.

Ateneo is now with rival UAAP.

"I told the boys to do what they had to do, play and pray hard and nothing is impossible," said SSC coach Turing Valenzona, while SSC supporters poured buckets of water on him and everybody at the Rizal Coliseum.

"It was a very satisfying feeling and my boys deserve all the credit," added Valenzona, who even led the Stags in posing before eager photographers while the game was on hold for at least 10 minutes late in the fourth.

With the title in the bag after the Stags raced to an insurmountable 85-65 lead with one minute to go, officials halted play apparently because they didn't know what to do with injured CSB scorer John Anthony Coching. Coching lay on the floor for minutes after he was bumped during an inside play.

It turned out that Coching hurt his knee and there was no stretcher available and the officials hesitated to lift him.

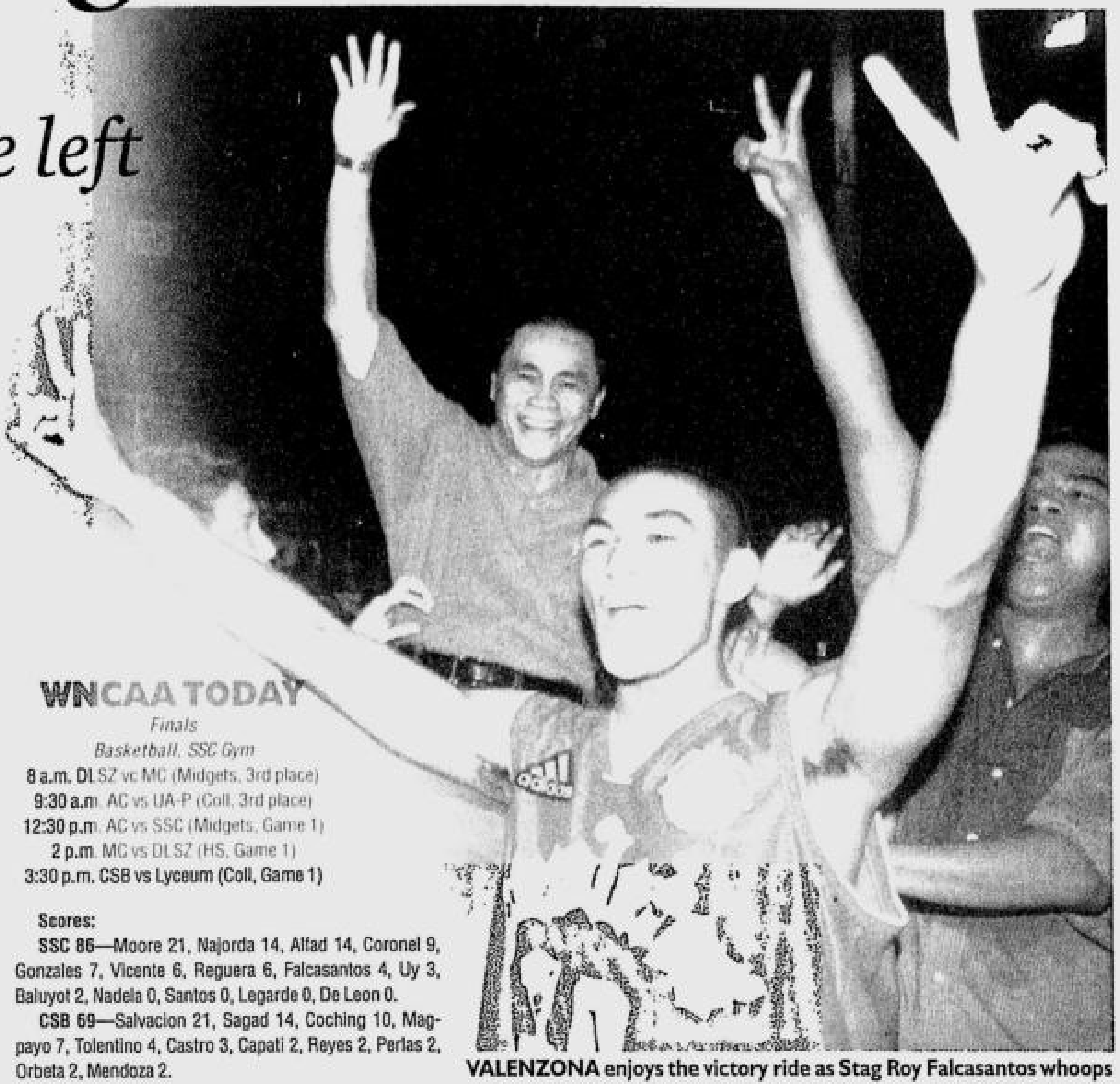
While play was on hold, SSC students were chanting pop songs, while throwing yellow and white balloons, plastic water bottles and card boards onto the hardcourt as the Stags whooped it up before the cameras.

They had all the right to do that, after playing well in the fourth to break free from a hotly contested first three quarters, which ended at 61-57.

The Stags, showing the experience and flair they had in beating Jose Rizal University last year, also displayed stamina in sustaining a full-court press that made life miserable for the Blazers.

Ernie Sagad made an undergoal stab to finally break the Blazers' scoring spell in the final 2:30 but by that time, the Stags were leading by 81-59 and never slowed down till the final buzzer.

Earlier, San Beda recovered from the shocking loss it suffered in Game 1 by thrashing Letran, 95-81, for its 11th juniors championships.



VALENZONA enjoys the victory ride as Stag Roy Falcasantos whoops it up after SSC's Game 2 win that gave the Stags the NCAA title.

JESS YUSON

WNCAA TODAY

Finals

Basketball, SSC Gym

8 a.m. DLSZ vs MC (Midgets, 3rd place)
9:30 a.m. AC vs UA-P (Coll, 3rd place)
12:30 p.m. AC vs SSC (Midgets, Game 1)
2 p.m. MC vs DLSZ (HS, Game 1)
3:30 p.m. CSB vs Lyceum (Coll, Game 1)

Scores:

SSC 86—Moore 21, Najorda 14, Alfad 14, Coronel 9, Gonzales 7, Vicente 6, Reguera 6, Falcasantos 4, Uy 3, Baluyot 2, Nadela 0, Santos 0, Legarde 0, De Leon 0.

CSB 69—Salvacion 21, Sagad 14, Coching 10, Magpayo 7, Tolentino 4, Castro 3, Capati 2, Reyes 2, Perlas 2, Orbeta 2, Mendoza 2.

Quarters: 22-15, 43-32, 61-57, 86-69.

Go, fly to Busan and make our country proud—GMA

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday exhorted the national athletes competing in the 14th Asian Games in Busan, South Korea, to "make our country proud" in the Asiad set from Sept. 28 to Oct. 14.

The President gave the 327-strong Team Philippines a fitting send-off in an elaborate ceremony at the Malacañang Palace.

Macapagal said the national athletes should not only focus on winning the gold but also on carrying the country's colors with pride and honor.

"Give it your best shot and always remember that your country is behind you all the way," the President told the athletes.

Chair Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission, president Cito Dayrit of the Philippine Olympic Committee and chief of mission Tom Carrasco accompanied the RP delegation, composed of 218 athletes and 109 officials.

The Presidential send-off is the penultimate activity of Team Philippines before it embarks on its mission to surpass its one-gold medal output in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad.

Tomorrow, the athletes will converge at the Quirino Grandstand to witness the climax of the nationwide torch relay project for the Asiad.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza will receive the three torches that passed through Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao the past two weeks in a rite which starts at 1:30 p.m.

The flame will stay overnight at the City Hall. Next, Buhain will bring it to the Rizal Monument at the Luneta where he will light the urn.

During the same occasion, Buhain will also present incentives to some 30 athletes, who qualified for the Republic Act 9064 or the Athletes and Coaches Incentives Act.

A mini-concert featuring various artists will follow the ceremonies, sponsored by Samsung Philippines and Viva Mineral Water.

PRESIDENT Macapagal (center) displays unity in sports by posing with PSC chief Eric Buhain (extreme left) and Olympic boss Cito Dayrit.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Woods at it again, rips course record

WOODS: Warming up for the Ryder Cup. AP

By Erskine McCullough
AFP Sportswriter

KILKENNY, Ireland—Tiger Woods began his quest for his sixth million dollar check in the World Golf Championship series when he took the lead in the first round here on Thursday with a blistering course record seven-under 65.

In eight appearances in the series the 26-year-old has won five times and amassed nearly $6 million in prize money and he wants more.

Suggestions that next week's Ryder Cup might be on his mind were quickly dismissed by the American.

Asked which was more important to him - winning the World Golf Championship or the Ryder Cup next week, Woods didn't even need time to think about the answer.

"Here this week," he flashed back.

Pushed to explain why, he replied, smiling: "A million reasons." "It is a big tournament and I want to win. It is just below the four Majors. Anytime you get to play against the best players in the world–that's the rush," explained Woods.

"The Ryder Cup is a team event. This tournament and the Ryder Cup–they are two totally different animals," he added.

Woods revelled in competing in the strongest field ever assembled in Europe, the world number one underlined his position as the best in the world with an almost flawless performance in ideal conditions–sunshine and only a slight breeze.

Only some loose driving prevented him from going even lower.

Playing with a brand-new set of irons after ditching his Titleists in favour of Nike, Woods closed with two birdies to come home in 32–four-under–to add to his outward three-under 33.

Architects golfest at Elena

REGISTRATION for the 11th staging of the annual Architects' Golf Classic is ongoing and will last until Sept. 30. Set to unfold at the Sta. Elena Golf Club in Laguna on Nov. 18, the event is expected to draw more participants and surpass last year's record high of 313 players.

Architects' Golf Classic organizers led by architects Mon Mendoza and Tom Adarme have expressed appreciation for the enthusiasm shown by participants as well as corporate sponsors. They also acknowledge the challenge of living up to the success of last year.

The offer of four flagsticks in every par 3, for four chances of clinching an ace is now part of the game's novelty.

Call 882-0296 and 435-6834 for details.

Archers, rowers, sail team depart for Asiad tomorrow

By Roy Luarca

THE FIRST batch of Philippine athletes bound for the Busan Asian Games will leave tomorrow afternoon in the company of administrative and medical staff members.

Taking the 2:20 p.m. PAL flight are members of the archery, rowing and sailing teams.

The 47-man group's arrival nearly four hours later will signal the influx of the Philippine delegates to the Korean port city hosting the quadrennial meet from Sept. 28 to Oct. 14.

Flying to Busan on Wednesday is the PBA-powered national team, which is slated to see action against the United Arab Emirates on Sept. 28, a day before the Asiad formally opens.

The main wave of athletes and officials will follow on Thursday.

Leaving together are the contingents from swimming, boxing, cycling, equestrian, fencing, golf, gymnastics, judo, sepak takraw, shooting, softball and weightlifting.

Other departure dates are Sept. 28 (soft tennis, squash, table tennis and wrestling), Oct. 2 (athletics, diving, badminton and boxing.

Last to leave on Oct. 6 will be the wushu artists.

The Philippines is one of 44 nations entered in the quadrennial Games.

Of the 38 disciplines in this 14th Asiad, the Philippines is entered in 31.

The Philippines won only one gold medal in the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok through the billiards doubles team of Gandy Valle and Romeo Villanueva.

Military dreams of Olympic gold

THE DEFENSE Department has started a countdown on a sports program to develop the first Filipino gold medalist–most likely a soldier–in at least four sporting events in the 2004 Olympics in Greece.

A brainchild of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, the program will tap the facilities, resources and personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in training and developing world-class athletes in boxing, taekwondo and shooting where the country's medal chances are quite high.

The program will focus on the training of soldier-athletes in the national pool and promising civilians from the grassroots.

Reyes has already initially discussed the concept of the sports project with the Philippine Olympic Committee and other sports association officials.

For boxing, the DND, through the AFP, has started to work on the requirements for the potential training of these athletes. Boxing gyms in military camps nationwide have been spruced up as possible venues for local competitions.

Already, the AFP has submitted a list of military camps equipped with gyms and sports facilities and are co-located with POC/PSC facilities.

Around 250 athletes are currently on the national pool while all the national boxers are AFP personnel.

For program strategy, Reyes said the AFP will adopt the "Gintong Alay" concept by having 10 stables or farms nationwide.

Under this, there will be 10 sports development centers in AFP camps which are co-located with POC/PSC sports facilities.

For shooting, agreements have been made on the following: a) provision of coach by the shooting association for the exclusive use of the military trainees; b) AFP to provide 20 full-time trainees; and, c) shooting association to give the list of equipment for the AFP to import.

7-stag derby lures country's best cockers

CHAMPION cockers from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, including their counterparts from Metro Manila, are taking part in the NCA 7-Stag derby at the Araneta Coliseum on Sept. 23-25.

Hosted by Gov. Ito Ynares, president of the National Cockers Association, and the famous Firefly Group, the cockfest lines up the country's best stags screened by NCA, Ucap, Balbina, NGBA, GF, Pagba and Migba. The first leg was won by Shio Expressway LCC of Louie Cua, who emerged solo champion with seven straight wins last Wednesday.

Heading the entry book are Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta, Ambassador Danding Cojuangco, Ynares, Frank Berin, Firefly Group, Jingco brothers, Jet Fernando, Rudy Salud, James Chiongbian, Peping Cojuangco and Esting Teopaco, Rep. Calaude Bautista, Mario Villamor and Boy Jiao, Meycauyan Mayor Eddie Alarilla, Boy Primallon and Tos Reyes, Louie Cua and Joseph Sy, Boy de Roca, John Capinpin, Edgar Santos and Ruel Ricafort. Also in the fold are Alex Escalona, Tony Tan, Tony Marfori, Jessie Viceo, Pepito Ngo, Rep. Rudy Albano, Chito Bersamin, Ram Lopez, Patrick Puno, Allan Tan, Ruuel Feliciano & Sons, Romy Panganiban, Pampanga's Madlambayan brothers, Jerry Feviday, Tony and Felix Trebol, Boy Velez, Johnny Jalandoni, Ricoy and Jesli Palomares, Eddie and Bomboy Araneta, Dickie Lim and William Co, Tarzan Lazatin, Vic Amante and Pol Estrellado.

35TH BLED OLYMPIAD

PSC gives ₱1M to nat'l chessers

TORRE: National team skipper.
FILE PHOTO

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission yesterday gave a big boost to the Philippine team competing in the 35th Chess Olympiad in Bled, Slovenia, after its board approved P1 million in assistance.

The PSC board, which earlier turned down the request due to budget constraints, agreed to fund the team after receiving a P50-million windfall from President Arroyo early this week.

The team, which will attempt to surpass its 17th-place finish in Istanbul, Turkey, two years ago, is skippered by Asia's first grandmaster Eugene Torre and is composed of six men and four women.

Joining the team are GMs Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor, international masters Mark Paragua and Nelson Mariano II and NM Petronio Roca, WIMs Arianne Caoili and Beverly Mendoza and WNMs Sheerie Joy Lomibao and Kathryn Ann Cruz.

BUHAIN

"Considering the weight of the tournament and the national pride that comes with sending a team to the event, the PSC board has decided to fund the team," said Buhain.

The national chessers, whose best finish in the tourney was seventh place in 1988 in Thessaloniki, Greece, will compete in the biennial event set from Oct. 25 to Nov. 11.

The PSC's assistance to the team came at a time when the agency is preparing for the Busan Asian Games where it is funding the stint of 218 athletes and 108 officials.

"We recognize the contribution made by our national chess players to Philippine sports," added Buhain.

Torre holds Tanauan chess workshop

ELEMENTARY and high schools from the Calabarzon and other south Luzon provinces will benefit when the first chess-in-schools workshop to be conducted by Grandmaster Eugene Torre gets under way at 9 a.m. today at the First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities (FAITH) in Tanauan City, Batangas.

For information contact the Getci at tel. 892-8759 or e-mail: acca@info.com.ph

Torre will be assisted by noted chess scholar Elmer Sangalang and national master Robert Suelo of the Active Chess Center of Asia (Acca).

Notre Dame booters keep title

ISULAN, Sultan Kudarat—Host Notre Dame of Isulan nipped Tacurong National High via a penalty shootout, 4-3, recently to retain the Sultan Kudarat title in the 19th Coke Go-for Goal under-16 football tournament at the provincial field here.

Ernie Pengro, Antonio Garwin, Sixto Bode and Carlos Apiado produced the goals that propelled Notre Dame to its second straight title and a trip to the all-Cotabato sub-regional finals where it will meet the General Santos, Cotabato City and North and South Cotabato winners.

Tacurong tallied only three goals, courtesy of Francis Perez, Iavristo Zaide and Charlie Bustamante.

The two teams battled to a scoreless tie during the regulation period, paving the way for the shootout.

Isulan National High shaded Bambad High, 1-0, on Carlos Pidok's breakaway goal in the 10th minute to clinch third spot in the tourney sponsored by Coca-Cola with adidas as official ball.

Meanwhile, two more elimination tournaments will start tomorrow in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan Cities while a third event is slated to unfold on Sept. 28 in Camarines Norte.

Twenty teams will vie for honors in Cagayan de Oro, 12 will compete in Iligan and eight will see action in Camarines Norte.

NCR, Negros dispute crown

BACOLOD CITY—Highly rated NCR-Philippine Air Force cruised to the national men's football finals Thursday by blasting Davao, 6-1, at the Pana-ad Stadium here.

Yanti Bersales sparkled with two goals as the Metro Manilans arranged a crown showdown with host Negros Occidental, which blanked Negros Oriental, 8-0, in the other semifinal match.

The last two matches of the tourney organized by the Philippine Football Federation and supported by the Philippine Sports Commission and Congressmen Monico Puentevella and Charlie Cojuangco were slated late yesterday at the Pana-ad Stadium.

Bersales connected in the 54th and 78th minutes after teammate Rolando Pinero had broken the ice in the 52nd.

The other NCR-PAF scorers were Winnie Subere (57th), Randy Bela-Ong (64th) and Ian Araneta (68th).

SPORTSWATCH

Left hook did it–Vargas

NEW YORK — Fernando Vargas made no excuses for losing to Oscar De La Hoya. He also offered no explanation why he dislikes him so much. Five days after he was stopped by Oscar De La Hoya in their 154-pound (69.3-kilogram) grudge match, a subdued Vargas offered congratulations to his rival and said he thought he was winning the fight until he got caught by a vicious left hook at the end of the 10th round. "I never recovered from that punch," Vargas said Thursday. "That's boxing. One shot can turn around the whole fight. I got caught, and more power to him that he was able to catch me with it." *AP*

Senate OKs boxing body

WASHINGTON — Sen. John McCain's bill to create a government commission to clean up boxing and protect the health of fighters was approved by a Senate committee Thursday. A new US Boxing Administration would license all boxers, promoters, referees and judges and oversee professional bouts in the United States. Promoters would be required to submit a copy of contracts with fighters to help prevent them from taking advantage of young fighters. The administration would also test boxers for infectious diseases and maintain their medical records. McCain said the industry is rife with abuses that go unchecked and state regulations on boxing are inconsistent. *AP*

Olympic sprint champ dies

JACKSONVILLE, Florida—American Bob Hayes, who won the 100m sprint at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo, died here late Wednesday. His daughter reported that the 59-year-old may have died from kidney failure however the precise cause of death which followed a long battle against ill health was unclear. Hayes, who was born here on December 20, 1942, was admitted to hospital last December in a critical condition with acute flu after fighting illnesses including heart and liver problems, and prostate cancer. Hayes spent his final days in hospital and his life, after a sparkling sports career, was often besieged by alcohol and drug problems. *AFP*

Aussies dump Chinese

SUZHOU, China— Australia's Penelope Taylor scored 29 points to lead her undefeated team to a 101-72 win against China here Thursday in the second round of the 14th Women's World Basketball Championships. The two-time WNBA all-star forward sunk 10 of 16 from the field, four of those three-pointers, as the 2000 Olympic silver medalists outclassed a China fresh from a win over Spain Wednesday. Earlier, Spain's Amaya Valdemoro scored 33 points to guide her squad to an upset 78-68 win over Brazil, keeping their quarterfinals hopes alive. *AFP*

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BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Juanito Yang fired 21 points to top the inaugural field pistol shoot of the Metal Silhoutte Association of the Philippines at the Quezon City Police Range. Also today in 1991, Jovy Marcelo notched 108 points to place second in the Toyota Atlantic Championship Pioneer 200 Indy car race in Lexington, Ohio.

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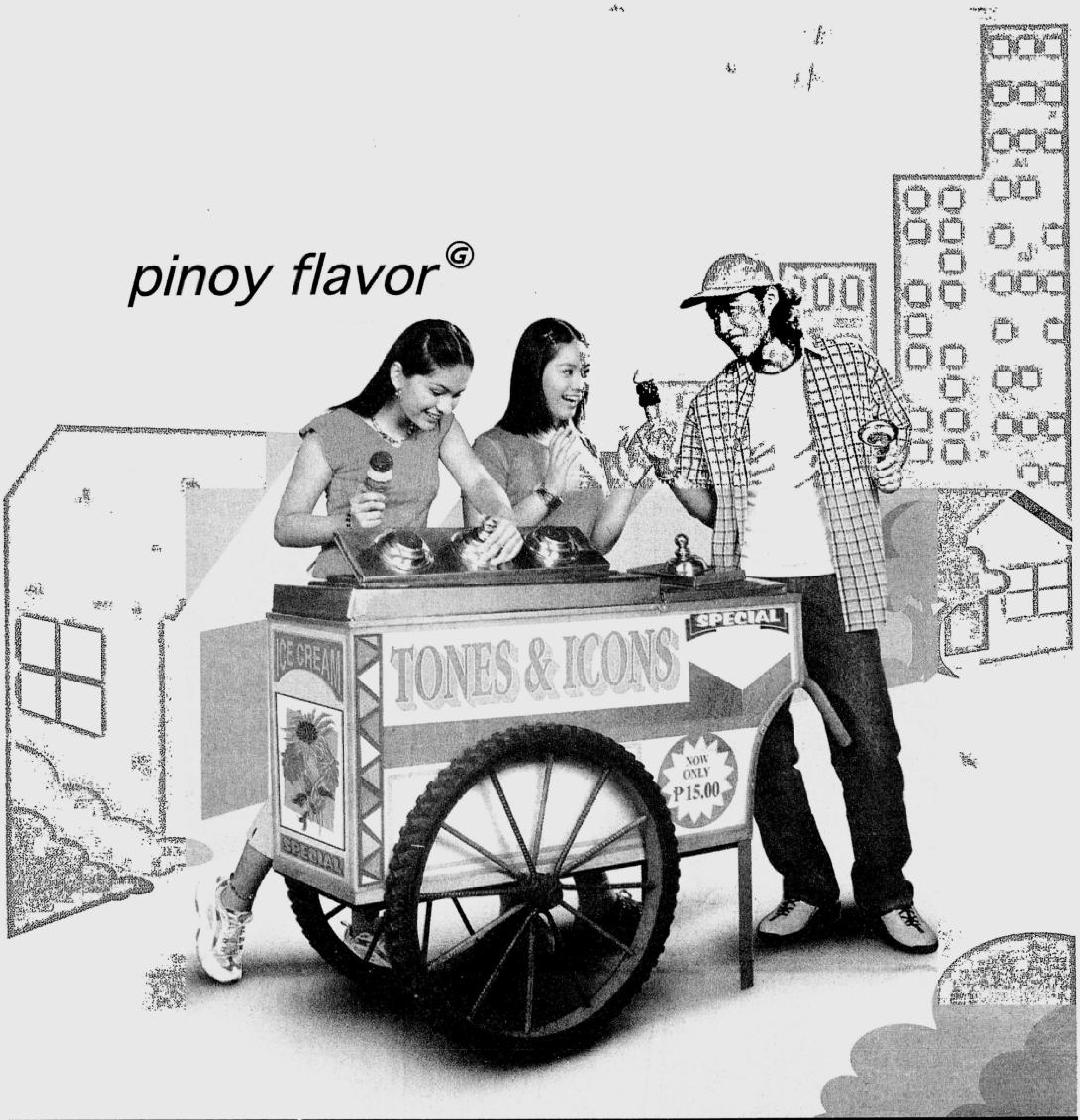

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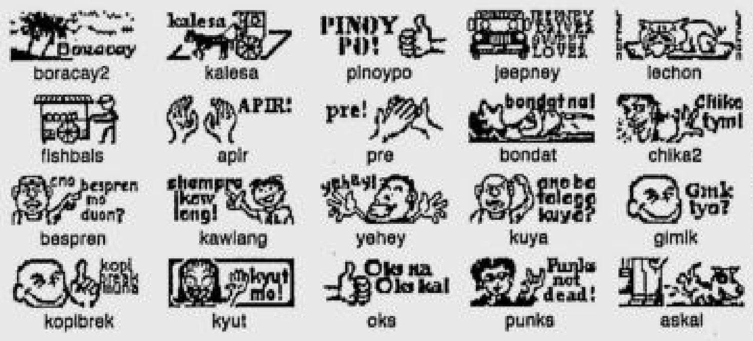

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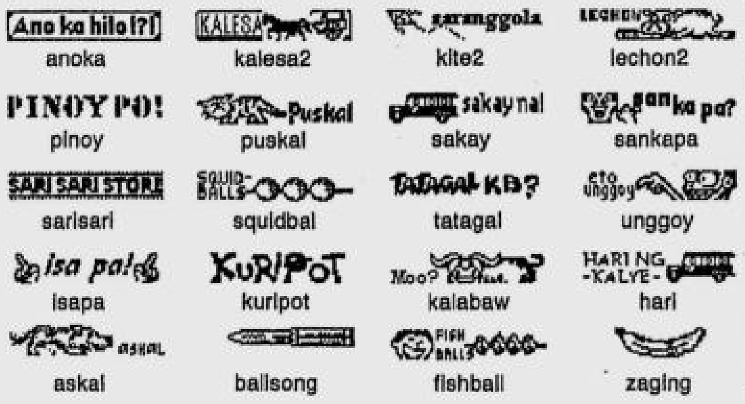

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BILANGGO	bilanggo	RIZAL UNDERGROUND
CHINA EYES	chinaeye	ALAMID
FOREVERMORE	foreverm	SIDE A
NANG MAGING CHAMPION ANG GINEBRA	ginebra	GARY GRANADA
HATAW NA	hatawna	GARY VALENCIANO
HOLD ON	holdon	SIDE A
LAKLAK	laklak	TEETH
NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	nowthati1	THE COMPANY
PRINCESA	princesa	TEETH
PUMAPATAK NA NAMAN ANG ULAN	pumaptak	APO HIKING SOCIETY
SET YOU FREE	setufree	SIDE A
So many questions	somanyq	SIDE A
TABING ILOG	tabilog	BARBIE'S CRADLE
DI BALE NA LANG	dibale	GARY VALENCIANO
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VENDORS WARN GMA

'Backlash in 2004'

By Philip C. Tubeza and Leila B. Salaverria

MILITANT vendors and their supporters yesterday vowed an "electoral backlash" against President Macapagal-Arroyo in the 2004 presidential election for supporting Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando's campaign against street vendors.

"*Dahil kay* Bayani, *walang* Gloria *sa* 2004 (Because of Bayani, there will be no Gloria in 2004)," about 1,000 members of the Metro Manila Vendors Association shouted as they marched to Mendiola yesterday.

Also yesterday, Forbes Park Barangay Chair Jose Concepcion urged Fernando to meet with the leaders of private subdivisions before carrying out his plan to open subdivision roads to public use to ease traffic congestion in the metropolis.

The vendors yesterday joined other militants in commemorating the 30th anniversary of the declaration of Martial Law.

Armed with cardboard bolos, the vendors vowed to end the President's "Strong Republic" by campaigning against her and her candidates in the 2004 elections.

"She gives her all-out support for Bayani's fascist campaign against small sidewalk vendors but she does not lift a finger against abusive capitalists, landlords, tax cheats and the many corrupt officials in her government," the group said in a statement.

It estimated that about 10,000 street vendors would be affected by the MMDA campaign. It said

BACKLASH /A27

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Court rules in favor of FEU students

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA regional trial court has ordered the Far Eastern University to confer accountancy degrees on three of its students who claimed they were supposed to have graduated last year.

Judge Eduardo Peralta of the Manila RTC Branch 17 said FEU erred when it included in its "expansion program" the 233 graduating students of Bachelor of Science major in Accountancy.

He also ordered FEU to pay students Hernan Sioson, Ruby Sansano and Jewelyn Maldeva P100,000 each in moral and exemplary damages.

The students' laywer, JV Bautista, told the INQUIRER that his clients' were "elated" by the judge's decision.

Yesterday, Bautista asked the court to extend the same ruling to the 165 other students who had opted to continue protesting FEU's program.

He said the 165 students are willing to forego taking the CPA board exams in October to show the court that they are "similarly situated" as the three other students.

The new program extended the accountancy course from four to five years. The students said they were also required to take a comprehensive test before being allowed to graduate last April.

In its defense, FEU relied on the endorsement of its program by Commission on Higher Education directors Amelia Bigleta and Prodicio Quiambao.

Quiambao said Alberto Cruz, former dean of FEU's Institute of Accounts, Business and Finance, made the request for the expanded program on Aug. 22, 1997, after the complainants had already enrolled.

Bigleta said she thinks the complainants

COURT/A27

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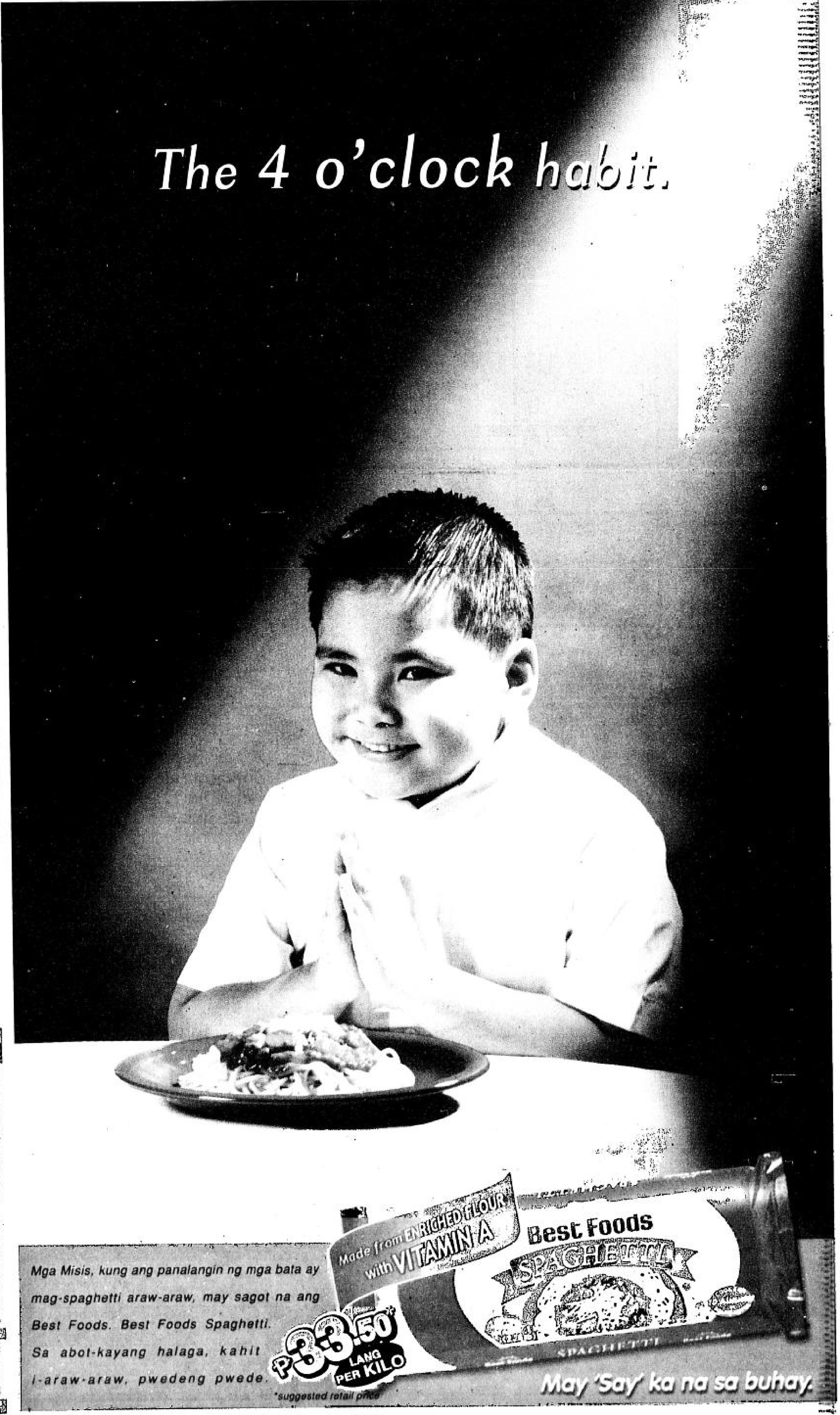

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7 (DTS)	ROAD TO PERDITION
8 (SDDS)	VOODOO
9 (DOLBY)	VAN WILDER

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	LAMAN
2	JOLOGS
3	TUKAAN
4 (SDDS)	REIGN OF FIRE
5	VOODOO
6 (DOLBY)	ROAD TO PERDITION
7 (DTS)	VAN WILDER
8	GAMITAN
9	BAKAT

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

4	LAMAN
5 (SDDS)	REIGN OF FIRE
6 (DTS)	TUKAAN
7 (DOLBY)	HIGH RISK
8	ROAD TO PERDITION

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	TUKAAN
2	VOODOO
3 (DTS)	ROAD TO PERDITION
4	LAMAN
5 (SDDS)	REIGN OF FIRE

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	TUKAAN

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	TUKAAN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	LAMAN
Lords	APOY SA MAGDAMAG
Jennet	RESERVE

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	ROAD TO PERDITION
2	REIGN OF FIRE
3	VOODOO

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	REIGN OF FIRE
2	ROAD TO PERDITION
3	RESERVE
4	LAMAN
5	TUKAAN

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	JOLOGS
2	GAMITAN

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta
MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1	JOLOGS
2	LAMAN
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ROAD TO PERDITION
4 (SDDS)	REIGN OF FIRE
5 (DTS)	VOODOO
6	BOURNE IDENTITY
7	VAN WILDER

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1	TUKAAN
2	REIGN OF FIRE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	BIGLANG LIKO
2	DERAILED
3 (DTS)	REIGN OF FIRE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	INSOMNIA
2 (DTS)	ROOKIE
3 (DOLBY)	REIGN OF FIRE
4	DERAILED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	INSOMNIA
2 (DOLBY)	REIGN OF FIRE
3 (DTS)	DERAILED
4	ROOKIE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	JOLOGS
2	LAMAN
3	BOURNE IDENTITY
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	AUSTIN POWER
2	SIGNS
3 (DOLBY)	HIGH RISK
4 (DTS)	SPIRIT

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1	AUSTIN POWER
2	HIGH RISK
3	BAKAT

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	
2	KAMA SUTRA
3	STRIP SHOW
4	LEFT BEHIND THE MOVIE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	REIGN OF FIRE
2	DIVINE SECRETS...
3 (DTS)	DERAILED
4	INSOMNIA
5	LAMAN

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	LAMAN
2	DERAILED
3	SAGAD

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	DERAILED
3	SAGAD

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233

1	LAMAN
2	DERAILED
3	INSOMNIA
4	BOURNE IDENTITY

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	LAMAN
2 (DTS)	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	LAMAN
2	SIGNS
3	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

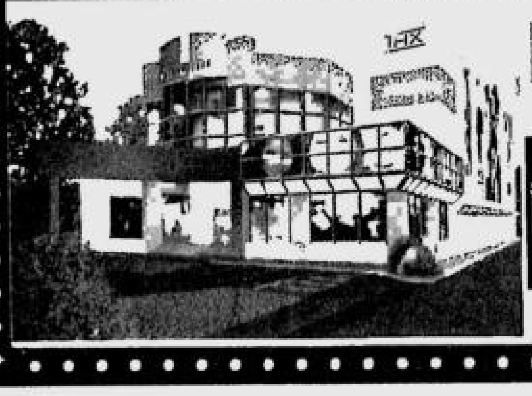
1	LAMAN
2	DIVINE SECRETS ..
3	BOURNE IDENTITY
4	HIGH RISK

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY)	ROAD TO PERDITION
2	LAMAN
3 (DTS)	REIGN OF FIRE
4	SIMONE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice .

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS



PREMIERE CINEMA
NOW SHOWING
5:00 PM, 7:30PM, 9:45PM

ROAD TO PERDITION
EVERY FATHER IS A HERO TO HIS SON.

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	ROAD TO PERDITION
2	LEFT BEHIND
3	REIGN OF FIRE
4	VOODOO
5	REVELATION
6	JOLOGS
7	TUKAAN
8	VAN WILDER

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	VAN WILDER
2	TUKAAN
3	ROAD TO PERDITION
4	LEFT BEHIND
5	REIGN OF FIRE
6	JOLOGS
7	REVELATION
8	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
9	SPIDER
10	VOODOO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	LEFT BEHIND
2	BOURNE IDENTITY
3	JOLOGS
4	ROAD TO PERDITION
5	VAN WILDER
6	VOODOO
7	REIGN OF FIRE
8	REVELATION
9	HIGH RISK
10	TRIPLE X
11	LAMAN
12	TUKAAN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	ROAD TO PERDITION
2	REVELATION
3	SPIDER
4	VAN WILDER
5	BOURNE IDENTIY
6	REIGN OF FIRE
7	VOODOO
8	LEFT BEHIND
9	JOLOGS
10	HIGH RISK
11	SIMONE
12	TUKAAN

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	SIMONE
2	VAN WILDER
3	ROAD TO PERDITION
4	REVELATION
5	LEFT BEHIND
6	SPIDER
7	VOODOO
8	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
9	JOLOGS
10	REIGN OF FIRE
11	TUKAAN
12	HIGH RISK

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	REVELATION
2	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
3	TUKAAN
4	JOLOGS
5	VAN WILDER
6	SPIDER
7	ROAD TO PERDITION
8	REIGN OF FIRE

SM SOUTHMALL
8068888

1	VOODOO
2	SPIDER
3	ROAD TO PERDITION
4	VAN WILDER
5	REVELATION
6	JOLOGS
7	LEFT BEHIND
8	REIGN OF FIRE
9	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
10	TUKAAN

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	AUSTIN POWERS
3	ROAD TO PERDITION
4	INSOMNIA
5	HUMAN EATER
6	DERAILED
7	SIGNS
8	HIGH RISK

SM CITY ILOILO
3208422

1	BAKAT
2	CLOSED
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	DERAILED
5	SIGNS
6	AUSTIN POWERS
7	CLOSED
8	HUMAN EATER

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128016

1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	ROAD TO PERDITION
3	SEX & ZEN
4	TUKAAN
5	SIMONE
6	JOLOGS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	TUKAAN
2	REIGN OF FIRE
3	ROAD TO PERDITION
4	VAN WILDER

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	ROAD TO PERDITION
2	TUKAAN
3	LEFT BEHIND
4	VAN WILDER

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	AUSTIN POWERS
2	DERAILED
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	BAKAT
5	HIGH RISK
6	SIGNS

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	ROAD TO PERDITION 11:15 FS/11:45 MF/2:00/4:15/6:30/8:45/ 10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:55 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 • Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate P120.00 • After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD
CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls

NOW SHOWING

Galleria 632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX	ROAD TO PERDITION 11:10MF 1:45 4:20 6:55 9:30LMF 11:33END
2	VAN WILDER
3	SIGNS
4	VOODOO
5	ROAD TO PERDITION
6	REIGN OF FIRE
7	BOURNE IDENTITY
8	KWENTONG KAYUMANGGI ANIMATION FESTIVAL
9	KWENTONG KAYUMANGGI ANIMATION FESTIVAL (AM)/SPIDER (PM)
10	REVELATION

MATINEE PRICE: P80 THX cinema / P65 Regular cinema
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita 536 -7809- 12

1	ROAD TO PERDITION
2	REIGN OF FIRE
3	BOURNE IDENTITY
4	REVELATION
5	VOODOO
6	SIMONE
7	VAN WILDER

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	TRIPLE X
2	REIGN OF FIRE
3	VAN WILDER
4	BOURNE IDENTITY
5	VOODOO
6	SIMONE
7	ROAD TO PERDITION
8	JOLOGS

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30

1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	BOURNE IDENTITY
3	ROAD TO PERDITION
4	JOLOGS
5	VAN WILDER
6	SIMONE
7	VOODOO
8	REVELATION

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	REVELATION
3	VAN WILDER
4	ROAD TO PERDITION
5	VOODOO
6	TUKAAN

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459

1	AUSTIN POWERS 3
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	SIGNS
4	LAMAN
5	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
6	SEX & ZEN

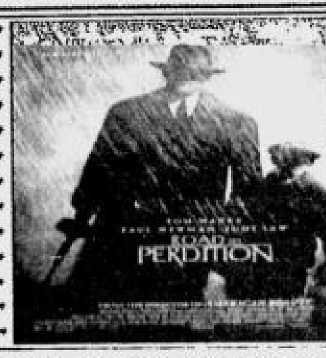
Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78

1	AUSTIN POWERS 3
2	SIGNS
3	HIGH EXPLOSIVE
4	DERAILED
5	BAKAT
6	BOURNE IDENTITY

Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 961- 5318 / 5270

1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	ROAD TO PERDITION
3	SIMONE
4	SEX & ZEN
5	TUKAAN
6	ROAD TO PERDITION

malabon citisquare- soon to open.



MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

'Backlash in 2004'

From page A25

that if the vendors' families would be included, this figure would balloon to 70,000.

The militants pointed out that these vendors belong to the urban poor, a potent and active political constituency.

Members of another group of militant vendors, the Alyansa ng mga Manininda para Pagtatanggol sa Kabuhayan at Karapatan (Almakka) also trooped to Mendiola yesterday.

Concepcion explained his call for Fernando to have a dialogue with subdivision leaders.

"I have discussed this with Bayani," Concepcion said in a phone interview. "I told him we must get the leaders of the affected areas to sit down with him for a workable solution."

He also proposed alternative solutions. One of them is conducting a traffic survey to determine what roads, when opened, would be beneficial to the motorists and would improve the traffic situation.

"We must find the traffic bottleneck," he said. "Once we identify the roads, then we can formulate solutions."

Another of his solutions is for subdivisions to provide shuttle services to students who go to schools inside the subdivisions. This way, other vehicles won't have to go inside subdivisions to ferry the children and there would be less traffic, he said.

If subdivision gates have to be opened, security measures must be adopted, Concepcion said. Policemen should be deployed in subdivisions and the MMDA should be selective in the vehicles it would allow inside subdivisions, he said.

Court rules . . .

From page A25

who entered the school in 1997 are not to be included in the new program.

Other FEU officials told the court they informed the students about the change and all of them did enroll in the fifth year.

But the CHED's approval of the new program "cannot be enforced in retrogression," Judge Peralta ruled in his eight-page decision dated Sept. 19.

"While it may be conceded that new course offerings can be added to the curriculum of a school . . . it is equally true that such modification cannot be effected in midstream, so to speak, just as a new statute should affect the future, not the past," the judge said.

The students said they only became "fully cognizant" of the expansion program after 1997.

The judge backed the students, saying that applying the new program "will seriously affect (their) vested rights and sow injustice."

Student nabbed for 2001 hazing death

By Philip Tubeza

JUSTICE finally caught up with a 24-year-old fraternity leader of the Far Eastern University a year after one of his neophytes died in a hazing in Laguna.

National Bureau of Investigation agents arrested Jessie Wilco B. Comia, 24, student leader of the Sigma Mu Sigma Fraternity and resident of Villa Pag-asa, Bansud, Oriental Mindoro.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said Comia was one of 11 men held responsible for the death of Rafael Root Albano III, an FEU medical student.

The fraternity is open only to medical students.

Wycoco identified the other suspects as Chester James De Castro, June Harris M. Marinas, Julius Jay S. Estacio, Edward M. Javier, Karl F. Fabellore, Julius L. Emmanuel, Junofel S. Esquivel, Jovito Ramil Paz, Donato Aguilar and Dr. Victorino Mangila.

Judge Romeo C. De Leon, presiding judge of Branch 35, Calamba Regional Trial Court, issued the arrest warrants for all of them, Wycoco said.

The judge set no bail, he added.

Lawyer Edmund Arugay, NBI National Capital Region chief, said Albano died shortly after he participated in the initiation rites on Aug. 4, 2001.

Members and leaders of Sigma Mu gathered at the Villa Rosario Resort in Barangay Pansol, Calamba, Laguna to conduct the initiation, Arugay said.

Arugay said Albano was only one of the neophytes who were subjected to "physical and psychological harm as a condition to their admission to the organization."

Albano suffered internal injuries and died as a result of hazing, Arugay said.

On Aug. 17, 2001, the victim's father asked the NBI to investigate his son's death.

The bureau conducted a thorough investigation and recommended that the 17 persons who attended the initiation should be charged criminally for violating the Anti-Hazing Law.

After Judge De Leon issued the arrest warrants, NBI agents arrested Comia on Sept. 16 at his hideout in a slum area in Pasig.

Arugay said his men are now hunting down the other fraternity members involved in the hazing.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SUGAT / FERDINANDO
ODEON	ROAD TO PERDITION
ODEON-2	JASON X / TAMPISAW
ROBEN	TUKAAN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	STARWARS / BIG FAT LIAR
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	BAKAT
REMAR	TUKAAN
REMAR-2	BAKAT
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TUKAAN
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CINE EUROPA 5
CINEMA-2	ROAD TO PERDITION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	LAMAN
CINEMA-2	TUKAAN
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GAMITAN
CINEMA-6	XXX
CINEMA-7	YOUNG VIRGINS
CINEMA-8	SIMONE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	REIGN OF FIRE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ROAD TO PERDITION
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	REVELATION
CINEMA-12	VOODOO
CINEMA-14	VAN WILDER
CINEMA-15	LEFT BEHIND THE MOVIE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City
☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

ROAD TO PERDITION P13 11:20,1:50,4:20, 6:55,9:30	VAN WILDER P13 11:45,1:50,3:55, 6:00,8:05,10:10	REIGN OF FIRE P13 11:50,1:50,3:50, 5:50,7:55,10:00
SIMONE P13 12:30,2:50,5:10, 7:30,9:50	BOURNE IDENTITY P13 12:00,2:20,4:40, 7:10,9:40	ROAD TO PERDITION P13 12:20,2:50,5:20, 7:55,10:30

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	CINEMA 2
REIGN OF FIRE 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:50 P 13	ROAD TO PERDITION 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50 P 13

All Reserved Seating: P120.00
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM

SEPT 20 & 21, 2002	70's 2DAY	9:00 PM
SEPT 27 & 28, 2002	A FIRST! AIZA'S BIRTHDAY CONCERT	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL . 721-6726 OR 721-0635

THEY'RE EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT.
HIGHLY EVOLVED.
AND THEY DON'T LIKE SHARING THE PLANET
MATTHEW McCONAUGHEY
CHRISTIAN BALE
REIGN OF FIRE
FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE
MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
SECOND WEEK!

JACKY CHAN COLLECTIONS
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JACKY CHAN
RUSH HOUR 2
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Chris TUCKER
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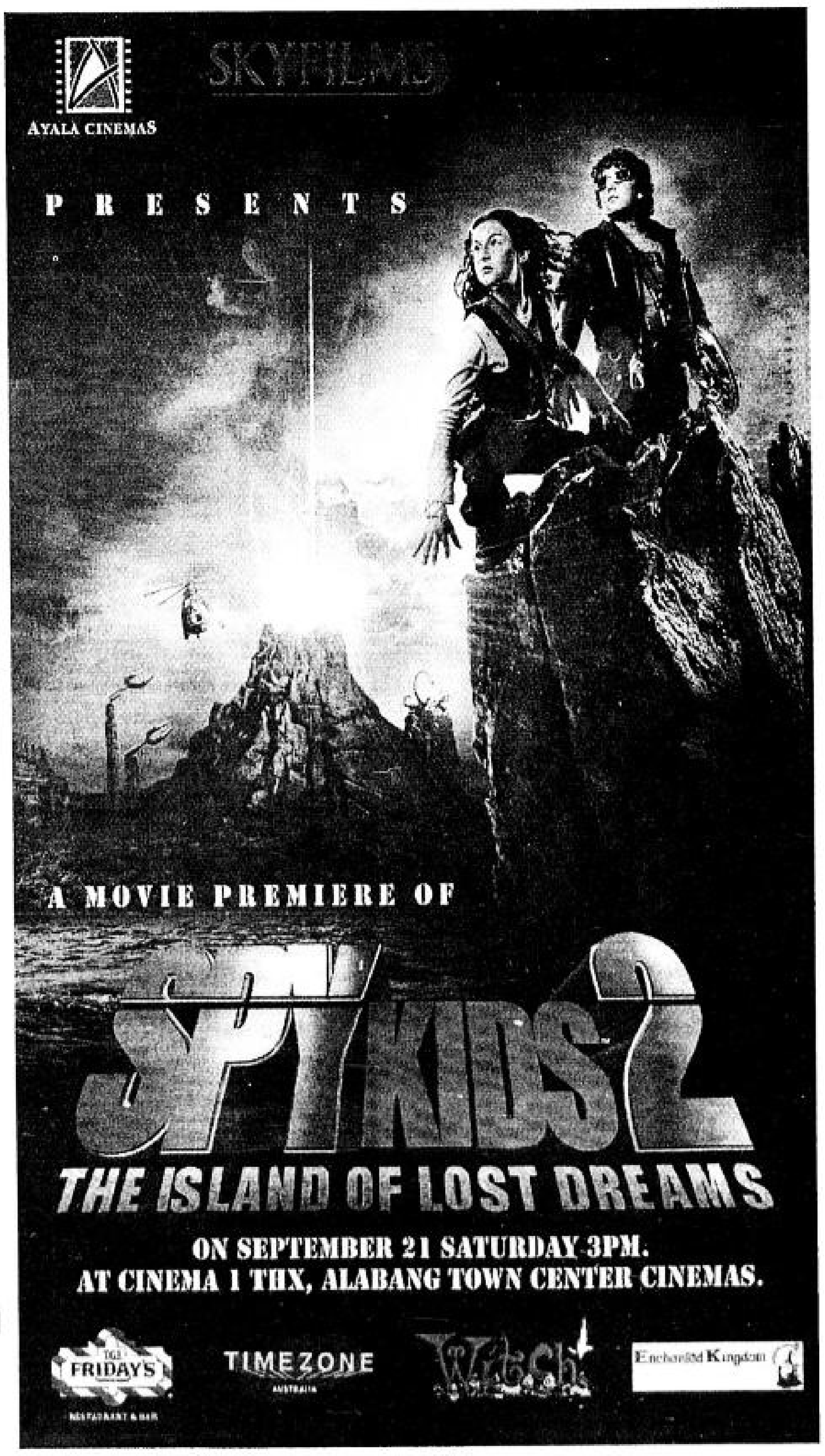
SEE IT FIRST!
SM CINEMA
JENNIFER LOPEZ
Everyone has a limit.
ENOUGH
Self defense isn't murder.

ADVANCE SCREENING
INVITATIONAL GALA PREMIERE
on September 21, 2002 • 7:30 pm
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 1
MTRCB RATING: P13
Regular showing on September 25 at the SM CINEMAS.



ON SEPTEMBER 21 SATURDAY 3PM.
AT CINEMA 1 THX, ALABANG TOWN CENTER CINEMAS.

MEGA CHANCES NA MANALO NG MANALO NG MANALO SA
INSTANT LATA-CASH!
AT PWEDE PA MAGING
MEGA MILYONARYO
SA GRAND RAFFLE!
MEGA WINNER
INSTANT LATA-CASH & RAFFLE
WINNER CORNED BEEF
PREMIUM BEEF
P10,000
P5,000
WINNER SPAGHETTI SAUCE
WINNER BEEF LOAF
WINNER CORNED BEEF
WINNER SPAGHETTI MEAT SAUCE

PROMO MECHANICS

1 . Instant Lata-Cash Promo

• Buy any variant or size of Winner canned product of Virginia Food, Inc : Winner Corned Beef 100g, Winner Corned Beef 130g, Winner Corned Beef 150g, Winner Corned Beef 175g, Winner Beef Loaf 100g, Winner Beef Loaf 170g, Winner Meat Loaf 100g, Winner Meat Loaf 170g, Winner Vienna Sausage 55g, Winner Vienna Sausage 100g, Winner Spaghetti Sauce 400g, Winner Spaghetti Meat Sauce 380g.

• When you open the can, check the inner-lid if it bears an amount that indicates your cash prize.

• If you have the winning lid/s, you may claim your prize at the designated redemption centers listed herein.

• As you claim your prize, you have to surrender the winning lid/s and fill up a redemption slip.

• Those who surrender the winning lid/s will be the only one entitled to receive the prize.

• You can win as many times as possible, as long as you purchase a winning can.

2. Grand Raffle Draw

• Collect labels of either the following Winner canned products

OPTION A: Two (2) labels of Winner Corned Beef (any size)

OPTION B: One (1) Winner Corned Beef label (any size) and two (2) labels of any other Winner products (any size).

• At the back of all the labels, write your name, address, contact number and signature and place inside a sealed envelope.

• One (1) sealed envelope corresponds to one (1) entry.

• Then write on the envelope the promo title:

'Mega Winner,Instant Lata-Cash and Raffle Promo'

• Drop your entries in any of the designated drop box areas nationwide.

You may also send your entries to:

eNAV LOGISTICS
5th level REMCO Tower,
61 West Capitol Drive,
Kapitolyo, Pasig City 1603

or to

VIRGINIA FOOD, INC.
PO Box 257 Mandaue
Post Office 6014
Mandaue City

• Send in as many valid entries as you can for more chances of winning.

• Deadline for submission of entries is on 31 December 2002. All mailed entries should be postmarked on or before 31 December 2002.

• Prize is P1,000,000.00 for one (1) winner, tax free.

• Winners of the Instant Lata-Cash Promo can also join the raffle draw.

• Grand draw will be held on 18 January 2003, 4:00pm at Virginia Food, Inc. head office, 840 G&L Building AS Fortuna St. Mandaue City Cebu.

• The grand raffle draw winner will be notified by either of the following: **registered mail, telegram, phone.**

• The winner can claim his/her prize at: **VIRGINIA FOOD INCORPORATED OFFICE** 840 G&L Building, AS Fortuna St. Mandaue City, Cebu.

• In claiming the prize, the winner needs to present at least two valid ID's with picture: Driver's license, SSS ID card,TIN card, Passport, Voter's ID, School ID, Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) ID

• The winner will have to fill up a redemption slip prior to claiming his/her prize.

• Travel arrangements and accomodations to Cebu shall be shouldered by the winner of the raffle promo.

• Unclaimed prize after 60 days from receipt of notice is considered forfeited with prior approval from BFAD.

• The P1,000,000.00 raffle prize is non-transferable.

REDEMPTION AND DROP BOX CENTERS

You may redeem your winning lids and drop your raffle entries at the following centers:

Virginia Food, Inc. Offices and Depots :

MANILA 21 General Araneta St., San Antonio Village, Pasig City
BACOLOD Fast Cargo TC, Singcang Road, Bacolod City
BUTUAN Fast Cargo TC, Km3, JC Aquino Avenue, Butuan City
CAGAYAN DE ORO Fast Cargo TC, Zone 6 Bulua
CEBU 840 G&L Bldg. AS Fortuna St. Mandaue
Gourmet Market, Mango Avenue, Cebu City
VFI Plant, Cogon, Compostela, Cebu
COTOBATO Fast Cargo TC Salimbao, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, Cotobato City
DAVAO D-H102 DBC Building, McArthur Highway, Matina Fast Cargo TC, Pishon Road, Sasa, Davao City
DUMAGUETE Fast Cargo TC, Piapi Beach, Dumaguete City Fast Cargo TC, Lower Lukewright, Tinago
GEN. SANTOS Fast Cargo TC, Macar Warf, Gen. Santos City
ILOILO Fast Cargo TC, Fast Pack/Fast Cargo Lapuz Norte
LEYTE Fast Cargo, Trece Martires St., Tacloban City Bo77, Fatima Village, Marasbaras, Tacloban City
OZAMIS Fast Cargo TC, Bito-on, Ozamis City
SIQUIJOR Uni J Thriftmart, Poblacion, Larena, Siquijor
ZAMBOANGA FAST CARGO Baliwasan, Seaside, Zamboanga

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LAGUNA Ensson Enterprises, Brgy. Dita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
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MANILA Mikros Transfers Inc., Manila Mahogany Compund, Marikina Rd. Manggahan, Pasig
Triangle Approach Corporatation, 232 Quirino Hi-way, Baesa, Quezon City
MINDORO Golden Star Supermart, Lapu-Lapu St., San Jose, Occidental Mindoro
Sablayan Merchandising, Dangero St., Buenavista , Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro
NAGA CITY Karahayan Enterprises, PLDC Compd., Roxas Ave.,
PALAWAN Karahayan Enterprises, Manalo St., Puerto Princesa
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Radio Mindanao Network (RMN) Stations :

(Please ask your local Radio Mindano Network for the address)

Luzon	
BAGUIO CITY	DWHB-FM 103.9
DAGUPAN CITY	DWON-FM 104.7 DWHT-FM 107.9
LAOAG CITY	DWHP-FM 99.5
NAGA CITY	DWNX-FM 91.9
PASIG CITY	DZXL-AM 558 & & i-FM 93.9
PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN	DYPR-AM 765 & FM 99.9
Visayas / Mindanao	
BISLIG, SURIGAO DEL SUR	DXHP-AM 999
BACOLOD CITY	DYHB-AM 747 & i-FM 94.3
BUTUAN	DXBC-AM 693 & DXXX-FM 100.7
CAGAYAN DE ORO	DXCC-AM 828 & i -FM 99.1
CEBU CITY	DYHP-AM 612 & i -FM 93.9
CALBAYOG SAMAR	DYCC-AM 936
COTABATO CITY	DXMY-AM 729 & DXCC-FM 90.9
DAVAO CITY	DXDC-AM 621 & i -FM 93.9
DIPOLOG CITY	DXDR-AM 981 & DXZZ-FM 94.1
DUMAGUETE CITY	DYWC-AM 801 & DYGB-FM 91.7
GEN. SANTOS CITY	DXMD-AM 927 & DXCK-FM 91.9
ILIGAN CITY	DXIC-AM 711 & DXIX-FM 102.3
ILOILO CITY	DYRI-AM 774 & i -FM 95.1
KALIBO, AKLAN	DYKR-AM 1161
MALAYBALAY, BUKIDNON	DXMB-AM 648
MARBEL, SOUTH COTABATO	DXKR-AM 639
ORMOC CITY	DYRR-AM 792
PAGADIAN CITY	DXPR-AM 603 & i -FM 96.7
ROXAS CITY	DYVR-AM 657 & i -FM 93.9
SAN CARLOS CITY	DYRS-AM 1431
SURIGAO	DXRS-AM 1206 & DXKE-FM 94.1
TACLOBAN	DYXY-FM 99.1
TAGBILARAN, BOHOL	DWXT-AM 1071
ZAMBOANGA	DYRZ-AM 900 & DXWR-FM 96.3

Redemption at **Radio Mindanao Network** stations is from Mondays to Sundays at 9:00am – 5:00pm from 17 September 2002 - 28 February 2003.

Manila Broadcasting Company (MBC) Stations :

DAET, CAMARINES NORTE	DWKS-FM95.3
LEGASPI, ALBAY	DWCM-FM99.5
LUCENA, QUEZON	DWLW-FM100.7
SANTIAGO, ISABELA	DWIP-FM 94.5
SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION	DZNL-AM 783

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Manila
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MAKATI 6788 Ayala, J.P. Rizal, Pencourt, Rockwell
MANDALUYONG Liberty Center, Mandaluyong Circle, Starmall
MANILA Harrison Plaza, Sampaloc PRC, Paco, SM City, SM Centerpoint, Tutuban
MARIKINA Bayan, Concepcion
PARANAQUE Better Living, BF Homes, SM Sucat, United Hills, Uniwide Sucat
PASAY CITY Saver's Square
PASIG Belvedere, Ortigas Tektite, One Mercedes, Ortigas Extension,Pioneer Center, Rosario
QUEZON CITY Araneta Center, Fairview, Kalayaan Ave., Kalipunan Ave., Lemon Square, Mayon, Novaliches, Panay Ave., Road 8, Robinson's Novaliches, St. Luke's, Visayas Ave., West Ave.
SAN JUAN Agora Mall, Greenhills
Luzon
ALBAY Tabaco
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BAGUIO CITY
BATAAN Mariveles
BATANGAS Batangas City, Lipa City
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CATANDUANES Virac
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Perlita Grocery, San Miguel
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LA UNION Agoo Supermart Agoo, La Union
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JOAN BONDOC

MARCH FOR MELENDRES
Employees of the Lung Center of the Philippines join a march along Quezon Avenue in Quezon City as they urge President Macapagal-Arroyo to bring Dr. Fernando Melendres back as LCP official.

Betrayed by text message

By Tina Santos

POLICEMEN on Thursday busted a five-man robbery gang after one of the holdup men sent a text message to the driver of a jeepney that had just been robbed in Caloocan City, asking him to get his share of the loot.

"Where are you?" the text message ran in Filipino, according to a policeman. "We're here at the house. Come over so we can divide (the loot)."

Jeepney driver Erfin Langat, 33, of Dagat-Dagatan, Navotas, and his conductor Roberto Balatbat, 35, of Solis Street, Tondo, Manila, even pretended to help the victims by accompanying them to the police station to report the holdup, said Senior Supt. Benjardi Mantele, Caloocan City police chief.

At the station, the lawmen learned that Langat and Balatbat were part of the robbery gang, said Supt. Dionisio Borromeo, head of the station intelligence and investigation division.

The police rounded up the other gang members less than three hours after the robbery, Borromeo said.

He identified them as Enrique Garcia, 37, of Tondo, Manila, Antonio de la Cruz, of Bustos, Bulacan, and Rogelio Balatbat, 40, Roberto's brother, of Tondo.

Police said the three men, armed with fan knives, held up Lingat's passenger jeepney about 7:30 p.m., at the corner of Tanigue Street and Dagat-Dagatan Avenue.

After the robbery, the holdup men fled on foot with about P250,000 in cash and valuables.

At the police station, victims Clodette de Vega and Celia Valero-Aguisap asked the police to investigate the driver and his conductor, suspecting they were part of the robbery gang, Borromeo said.

The victims said Lingat and Balatbat tried to hold them off even as the other victims pleaded to be taken to the police station to report the holdup.

The duo grudgingly agreed to take them to the police, Borromeo added.

True enough, the victims' suspicions were confirmed when the robbers used De Vega's stolen cell phone to send a text message to Lingat, asking him to come to their hideout so they could divide the loot.

Investigators said Lingat and Balatbat admitted their participation in the heist and led policemen to their hideout on Labo Street in Manila, where the other three men were caught in the act of taking shabu.

Witness describes OMA man's assassin

By Alcuin Papa

QUEZON City policemen yesterday said they already have a description of the man who shot and killed Kharis Mikunung, a deputy executive director of the Office of Muslim Affairs.

In the report of Supt. Raul Medina, chief of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit, investigators have taken down the statements of Mikunung's nephew and personal security Saidamen Ala and another witness.

The two witnesses told police that the gunman was tall, about 40 years old and had curly hair.

Medina said they are "looking at all angles" in the killing of Mikunung.

He said investigators are now trying to determine whether the murder was job-related or the result of a bitter feud between Mikunung's family and another family.

According to the police report, Mikunung, 52, was killed in front of the OMA offices at the Ablaza Building on E. Rodriguez Avenue about 12:30 p.m. Thursday.

'Hilo' girl wanted family to be rich

HAGONOY, Bulacan—The 8-year-old girl who died after imitating game contestants in ABS-CBN's noontime show "Magandang Tanghali Bayan" left her family a letter stating her last wish.

Violy Guevarra, mother of Joy Guevarra, found inserted in the pages of the girl's notebook a note which the girl had wanted to send to GMA-7's program "Wish ko Lang."

The message reads: "Wish *ko lang. Sana yumaman kami. Sana matupad ninyo* wish *ko.*"

Mrs. Guevarra said Joy, the only girl among her four children, loved to watch both "Magandang Tanghali Bayan" and "Wish Ko Lang."

Joy died on Sept. 15 after she, her brother and some friends imitated the "Ano Ka Hilo?" game portion of MTB. After playing, Joy complained of dizziness and headache and went home to rest. She never woke up again.

Joy's favorite doll, handbag, shoes and handkerchief were placed with her remains in her coffin.

She was buried on Thursday at the Catholic cemetery here.

The mother said that while her daughter was watching "Wish Ko Lang" on Sept. 14, she noticed her writing something.

"I did not know what she was writing until I found her notebook while I was fixing her things," the mother said.

Mrs. Guevarra said it had been her daughter's wish that her parents would not work abroad anymore so that family would be whole.

She said she used to work in Japan as an entertainer but decided to stay home after her daughter request it.

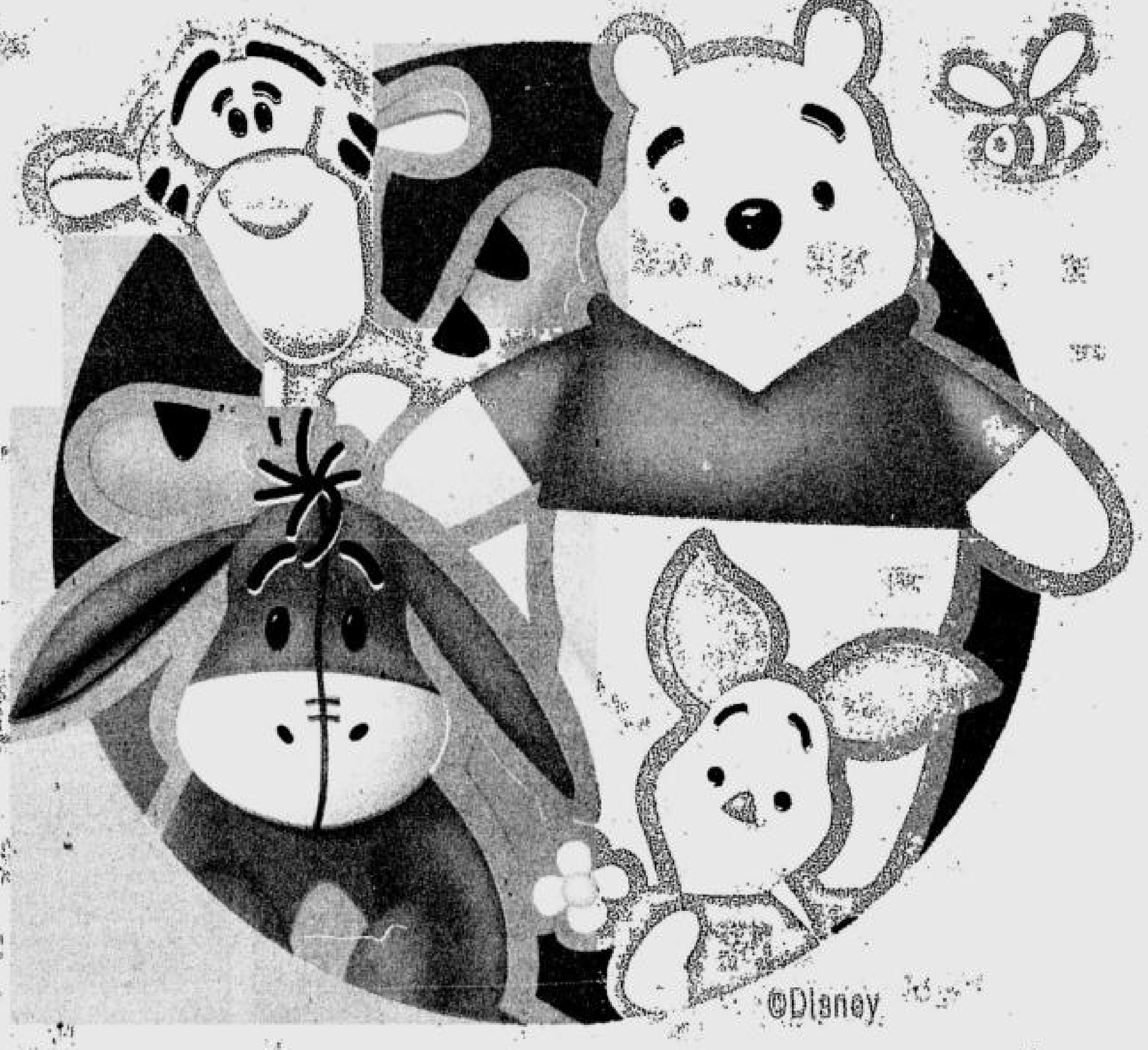
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Dialogue with police

NATIONAL Police Commission (Napolcom) vice chair and executive officer Rogelio A. Pureza announced the conduct of a joint nationwide seminar-workshop for the Civil Service Commission (CSC), the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Napolcom from commissioner level down to technical officers to discuss personnel problems and other concerns besetting the PNP.

The activity, which had been proposed by Napolcom personnel and administrative service chief Bernardo R. Calibo, is scheduled for Oct. 26-27 at the Development Academy of the Philippines in Tagaytay City.

Pureza said the seminar-workshop-dialogue is the first ever nationwide seminar-workshop to include the three agencies.



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Sept. 13 - 15
Activity Center
Meet 'n Greet
Sept. 13: 4pm, 6:30pm
Sept. 14: 11am, 3pm, 4:30pm, 6:30pm
Sept. 15: 3pm, 4:30pm, 6:30pm
Friendly Stops: Pooh Photo Spot, Tattoo Corner, and The Book of Pooh Corner

Alabang Town Center
Sept. 20 - 22
Activity Center
Meet 'n Greet: 11:30am, 1:30pm, 4pm, 6:30pm
Musical Shows: 3pm, 5:30pm
Friendly Stops: Pooh's House, Tigger's Party, Piglet's House, Arts & Crafts Corner Tattoo Corner and the Village Gift Shop

Ayala Center Makati
Sept. 26 - 29
Glorietta Activity Center
Meet 'n Greet: 11am, 1pm, 4pm, 7pm
Musical Shows: 2:30pm, 5:30 pm
Friendly Stops: Pooh's House, Tigger's House, Eeyore's House, The Book of Pooh Corner, Arts & Crafts Corner, Tattoo Corner and the Village Gift Shop

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Dumpsite faces closure

By Christian Esguerra

THE LAGUNA Lake Development Authority (LLDA) has given the Rodriguez municipal government in Rizal province 15 days to explain why its dumpsite should not be closed for contaminating water in its vicinity.

In a three-page order dated Sept. 10, LLDA chief legal officer Ma. Teresa Oledan warned that the Rodriguez dumpsite would be closed for failing a series of tests to determine its compliance with water quality standards.

The latest test conducted last Aug. 9 showed "there was no improvement in the unfinished waste water treatment facility...hence, leachate was still collecting in the collecting pit and then being circulated in the dumpsite."

The local government will be fined P1,000 daily until the dumpsite stops "discharging pollutive wastewater," according to Oledan's order.

The LLDA's public hearing committee headed by Oledan found out that the spring located near the garbage facility was contaminated with leachate.

The committee headed by Oledan reported that the dumpdite "continues to directly discharge its untreated wastes into the nearby Lukutan Munti River."

Pushcart yields 3 bodies

THE BODIES of three men, believed to be victims of summary execution, were found in a pile in a makeshift pushcart in Quezon City early yesterday morning.

Police identified the victims as construction worker Anthony Siaton, 28, of Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City; an alias "Crogle," described to be 20 to 25 years old; and Jimmie Reyes.

The Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit reported that the three bodies were found by Sally Ferrer in a vacant lot beside the Sunday Machine Works along Quirino Highway in Barangay Balon-bato in Balintawak, Quezon City.

Policemen said the three men were last seen walking around Tugatog, Caloocan City last Thursday night.

Fears that a vigilante group is operating in Quezon City have arisen after the body of a suspected cell phone snatcher was found earlier this week on an overpass near Quezon Avenue.

Alcuin Papa

Sick man commits suicide

A 48-YEAR-OLD man with a lung ailment committed suicide by hanging Wednesday morning, police said.

Leonilo Hipolito Sr. hanged himself in his house at the Malumay Compound on Corregidor Street in Tondo, Manila, said Detective Virgo Villareal of the Western Police District homicide section.

Hipolito had tried but failed to kill himself twice before, Villareal added.

He said the victim's body was found about 7:15 a.m. Wednesday.

Villareal said Hipolito's son, Hipolito Jr., was shocked when he found his father dead.

Their neighbors had seen Hipolito still alive more than an hour before, Villareal added.

Hipolito Jr. tried to save his father and brought him to the Ospital ng Tondo. The victim was declared dead on arrival.

Hipolito's relatives told investigators that he and his wife often quarreled, Villareal said.

Hipolito's body bore no other sign of external injury except for the ligature marks around his neck, Villareal added.

He said the victim's children refused to have Hipolito autopsied since they were convinced their father killed himself.

Philip tubeza

OPENS SEPTEMBER 25!

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13

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Stephen Holden, THE NEW YORK TIMES
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JENNIFER LOPEZ
ENOUGH

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J. Lo strikes back in 'ENOUGH'

Slim (JENNIFER LOPEZ) is working hard as a waitress when she is swept off her feet by Mitch (BILLY CAMPBELL), a handsome, rich businessman. Convinced she's found her Prince Charming, Slim marries Mitch in a lavish wedding, and settles with him in a fabulous dream home, where they are soon blessed with a lovely daughter, Gracie (TESSA ALLEN).

But the dream turns into a nightmare when Mitch becomes unfaithful, and starts abusing her physically and emotionally. He expects her to accept his beating and cheating. "I'm the man," Slim's husband declares. "I work and bring home the money, so I make the rules."

Slim has had enough. With her friend Ginny's (JULIETTE LEWIS) help, she escapes with Gracie. Pursued by an increasingly dangerous husband, she prepares to fight back with all her might.

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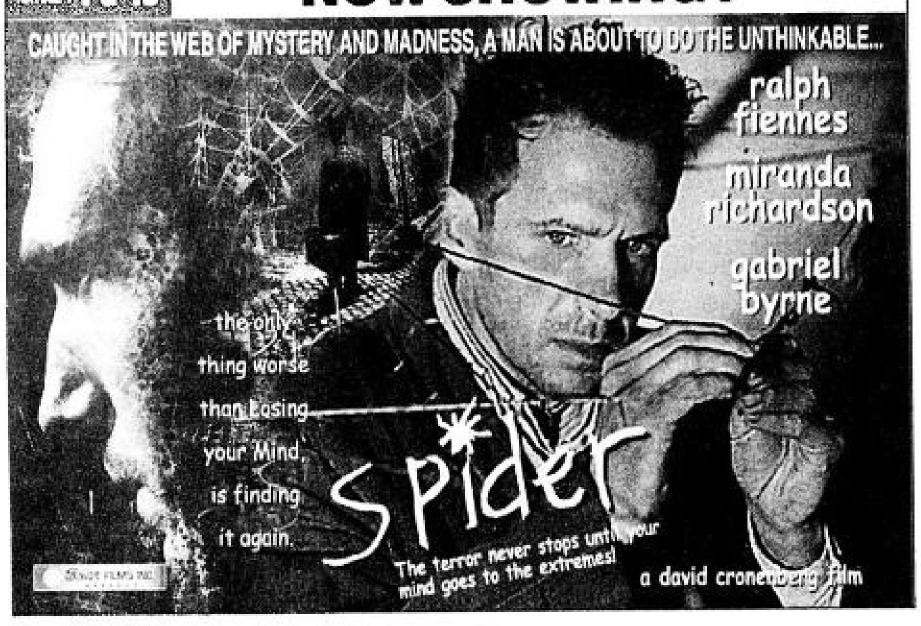
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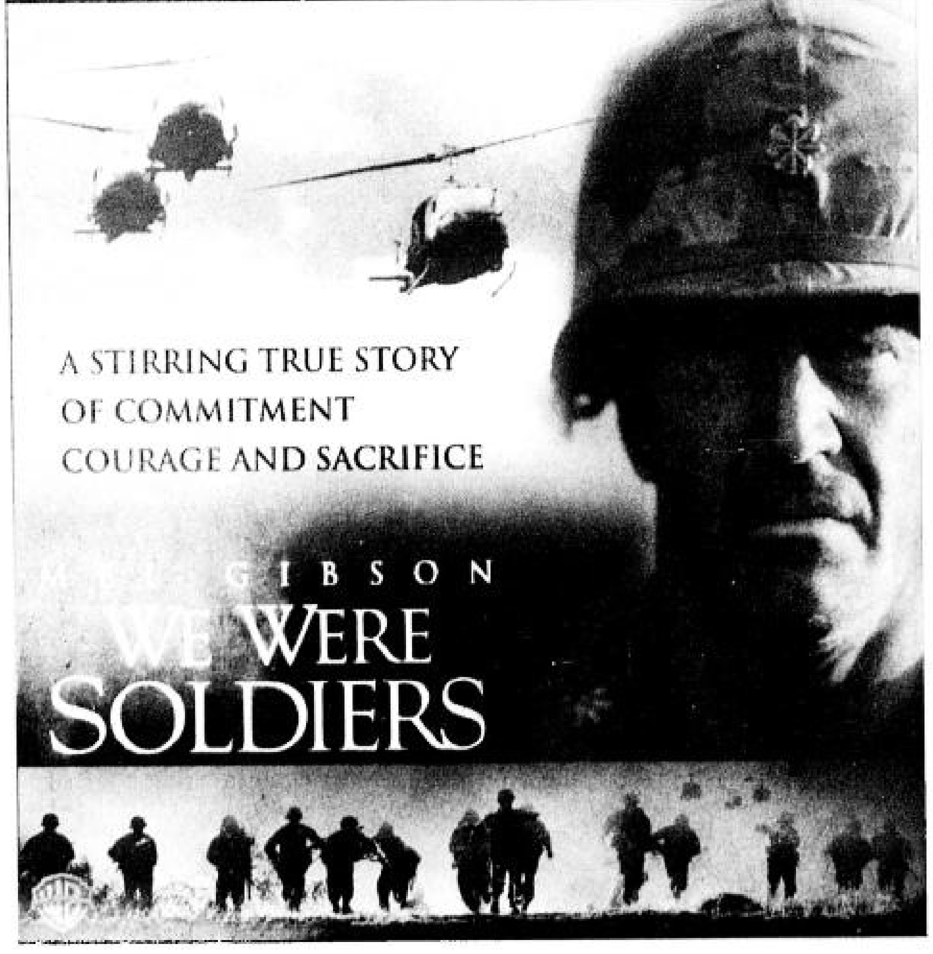
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OF COMMITMENT
COURAGE AND SACRIFICE
MEL GIBSON
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ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
The 4th Israeli Film Festival
AYALA CINEMAS

Sept.19 (Thu)
Clean Sweep 2:00
Kippur 4:30
Growing Pains 7:00
The Policeman 9:30

Sept.20 (Fri)
The Policeman 11:30
Don't Give a Damn 2:00
Growing Pains 4:30
Total Love 7:00
Yana's Friends 9:30

Sept.21 (Sat)
Growing Pains 11:30
Yana's Friends 2:00
Clean Sweep 4:30
Kippur 7:00
Clean Sweep 9:30

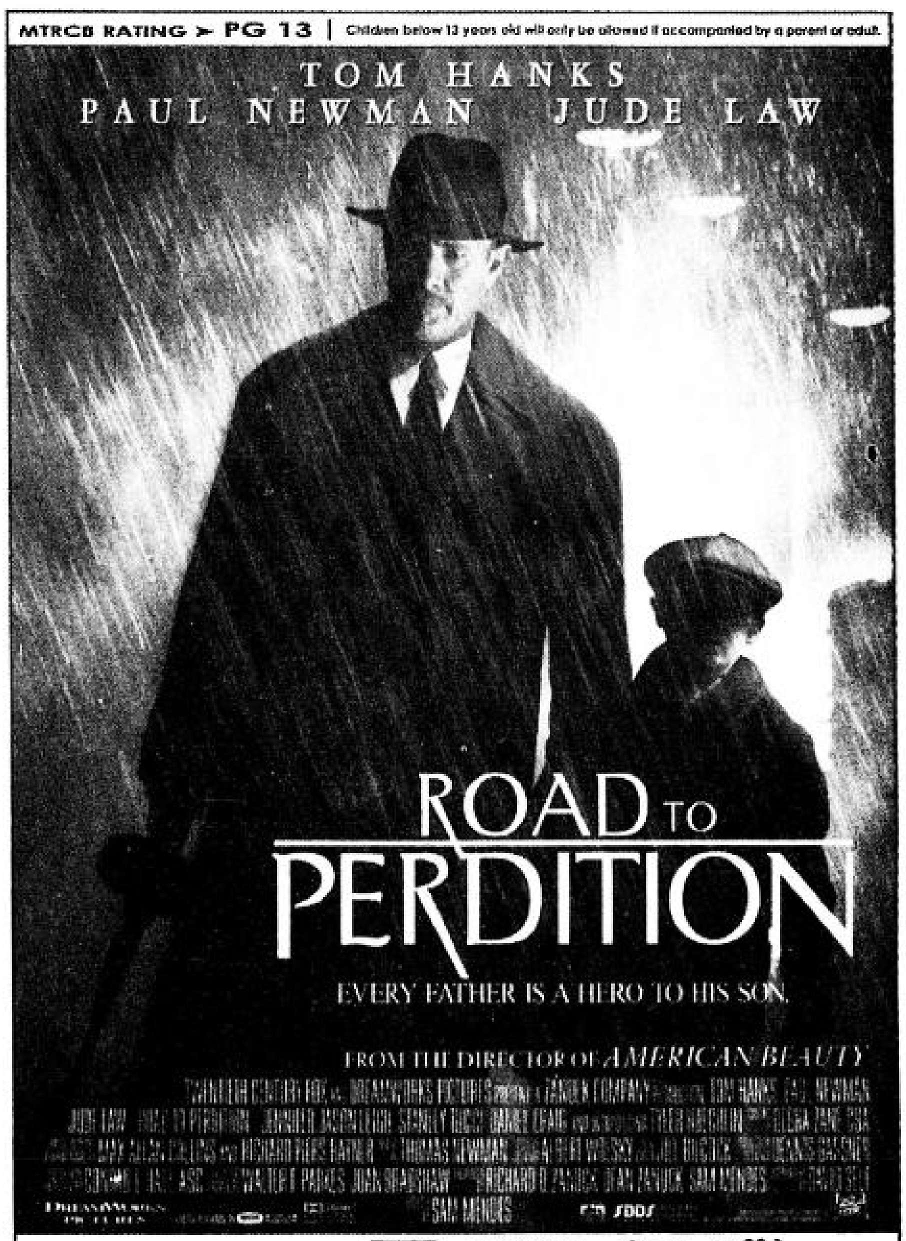
Sept.22 (Sun)
Total Love 11:30
The Policeman 2:00
Yana's Friends 4:30
Don't Give a Damn 7:00
Clean Sweep 9:30

Sept.23 (Mon)
Total Love 2:30
Don't Give a Damn 4:30
The Policeman 7:00
Kippur 9:30

Sept. 24 (Tue.)
Growing Pains 2:30
Yana's Friends 4:30
Clean Sweep 7:00
Don't Give A Damn 9:30

Sept.25 (Wed)
Kippur 2:30
Don't Give a Damn 4:30
Total Love 7:00
Yana's Friends 9:30

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.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1 REIGN OF FIRE	1 VAN WILDER: PARTY LIAISON	THE 4TH ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL	REIGN OF FIRE 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30	ROAD TO PERDITION
	2 THE BOURNE IDENTITY			
2 SIMONE	3 REIGN OF FIRE 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00, 12:00	AN AMERICAN RHAPSODY (EXCLUSIVE)	ROAD TO PERDITION 10:40, 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40, 11:10	2 REIGN OF FIRE
				THE BOURNE IDENTITY
3 VOODOO	4 REVELATION		AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	
	5 DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YA-YA SISTERHOOD	GARY VALENCIANO HITS ONSTAGE SEPT 20, 27 & 28 -PM	4 THE BOURNE IDENTITY 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	4 SIMONE
4 ROAD TO PERDITION	6 ROAD TO PERDITION			
	7 SIMONE		SIMONE 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	VAN WILDER: PARTY LIAISON

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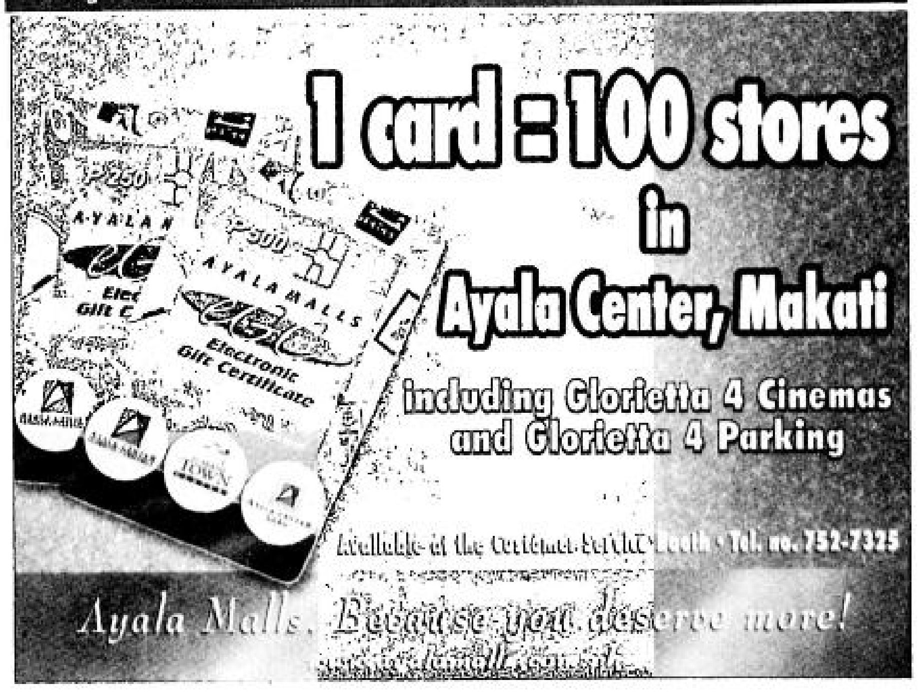
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Those MILF camps should be destroyed

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IF President Macapagal-Arroyo doesn't immediately order government troops to search and destroy the two reported new training camps of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), they will become permanent fixtures.

CNN or Cable News Network reported that the MILF had reopened two training camps in Mindanao and another in Indonesia. CNN cited US and Asian intelligence as sources of its report.

The President should act now before those camps become well-entrenched.

* * *

Camp Abubakar, the MILF camp that was overrun by government troops two years ago at the cost of so many lives, was built little by little by the Moro rebels during the administrations of Marcos and Aquino.

It was too late when the government discovered that the camp had become a teeming community with an established government within the republic. This was during the Ramos administration.

Even the Narciso Ramos highway, built by the government to bring progress to Central Mindanao, was converted into a military facility by the rebels. The canals on both sides of the highway were made into bunkers. Government troops who attacked Abubakar had a hard time because they had first to overcome the rebels entrenched in the bunkers.

* * *

No matter what they say about Erap, he was able to tame the MILF by ordering the attack on Camp Abubakar and satellite camps of the rebel group.

Abubakar, as well as the satellite camps, were captured by government troops.

Now, the MILF has rebuilt training camps for its members and Al Qaida terrorists. These camps should be destroyed immediately.

* * *

If the government doesn't destroy those two training camps now because it wants to appease the MILF since it's currently holding peace talks with the rebels, it might regret its inaction later.

Inch by inch, the MILF will try to recover its lost ground. Little by little, it will rebuild the camps destroyed during the all-out war with the government two years ago. Then, presto, the MILF has again established a foothold in Central Mindanao.

* * *

I have been the subject of inaccurate news reports. There was this story that appeared in a a tabloid months ago that I was killed in an ambush. Of course, I never dignified that story about my death.

But now, I am compelled to deny that report in some tabloids that I "went wild" at the office of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez. Supposedly, I was pressuring Perez to rule in favor of my close friend, Zamboanga City businessman Lepeng Wee, who was charged with smuggling toxic chemicals.

That incident never took place. The reports gave me so much undeserved credit: that I could throw my weight around inside the office of the justice secretary and force him to make a ruling in favor of my friend. Me, pushing around a Batangueno macho? You've got to be kidding !

* * *

It's true I've gone to Perez's office, as well as the office of Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno, several times with my TV crew to accompany complainants in my public service program, "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo." Zuno is another Batangueno who is definitely no pushover.

It's also true that I inquired from Perez and Zuno why it was taking the Department of Justice so long to resolve the smuggling case against Wee. The resolution of the smuggling case was hastened apparently because I reminded Perez and Zuno about the delay.

My visits to the Perez and Zuno's offices were official and open. They were never surreptitious; otherwise, if I wanted to seek favors, I could have met Perez in other places.

* * *

Then, why the malicious news reports? I don't know but I can only guess. Probably some corrupt subordinates thought that because Perez exonerated Wee, money changed hands between the justice secretary and Wee. With me acting as courier.

These corrupt subordinates, the source of the malicious story, probably got angry because, as the Tagalogs would put it, "hindi sila naambunan"

I would never be a party to corrupting a public official. Ever.

DOTC directs cabs to issue receipts, cracks down on abusive drivers

TAXI DRIVERS are now supposed to issue receipts to their passengers, according to a directive from the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

DOTC spokesman Gen. Thompson Lantion said the new policy is being implemented by compelling taxi operators applying for a new franchise to install receipt-issuance machines and two-way radios in their taxicabs before their applications are approved by the LTFRB Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the concept would not only help crack down on abusive taxi drivers who jack up their fares but would also boost the government's revenue-generating collection since taxi operators would have to file their taxes now based on the receipts.

"It's an idea whose time has come," Mendoza said. "Soon, all taxicabs will be equipped with receipt-generating machines that prints out the plate number, the fare, the kilometers traveled and the names of the drivers and operators.

"This way, it would be very easy for the public to file charges against erring taxi drivers and easy for law enforcement agents to prosecute them. The receipts, I believe, could stand as evidence or as the basis of a complaint to be filed," he added.

Lantion also said that the DOTC would not let up on its drive to remove from the streets public utility vehicles, particularly buses, which use fake license plates. The DOTC chief has already issued temporary plates marked "Project Edsa" for those plying the major thorough fare, Lantion said.

Drug use affects company's profits

A STUDY by the US National Institute on Drug Abuse outlining the correlation of drug use among Federal Railroad Management (FRM) employees and Human Factor railroad accidents has shown that detecting employees' use of drugs early would lessen risks of accidents and decrease Human Factor Accidents.

The study, which was released by DrugCheck Philippines Inc., proves that drug testing is an effective deterrent to workplace related accidents, according to Mylon Villasante, spokesperson for DrugCheck.

In 1993 there were 911 Human Factor Accidents (HFA) resulting in property damage of $6.4 millions, the study said.

When the Federal Government instituted a random, mandatory and unannounced drug-testing program, HFA factors have decreased every year.

The study said that in 1994, there were only 495 HFA, 294 in 1995, 168 in 1996, 135 in 1997 and only 54 in 1998.

Property damages also went down every year after 1994, according to the study.

Damages for the first year went down to $5.4M, or a 15 percent decrease from the previous year.

In 1995 HFA damage was down to $4M or a 25.7 percent decrease from the previous year.

Damage went down to $1.2 million the following year, the highest percentage decrease of 70.4% damage, the study said.

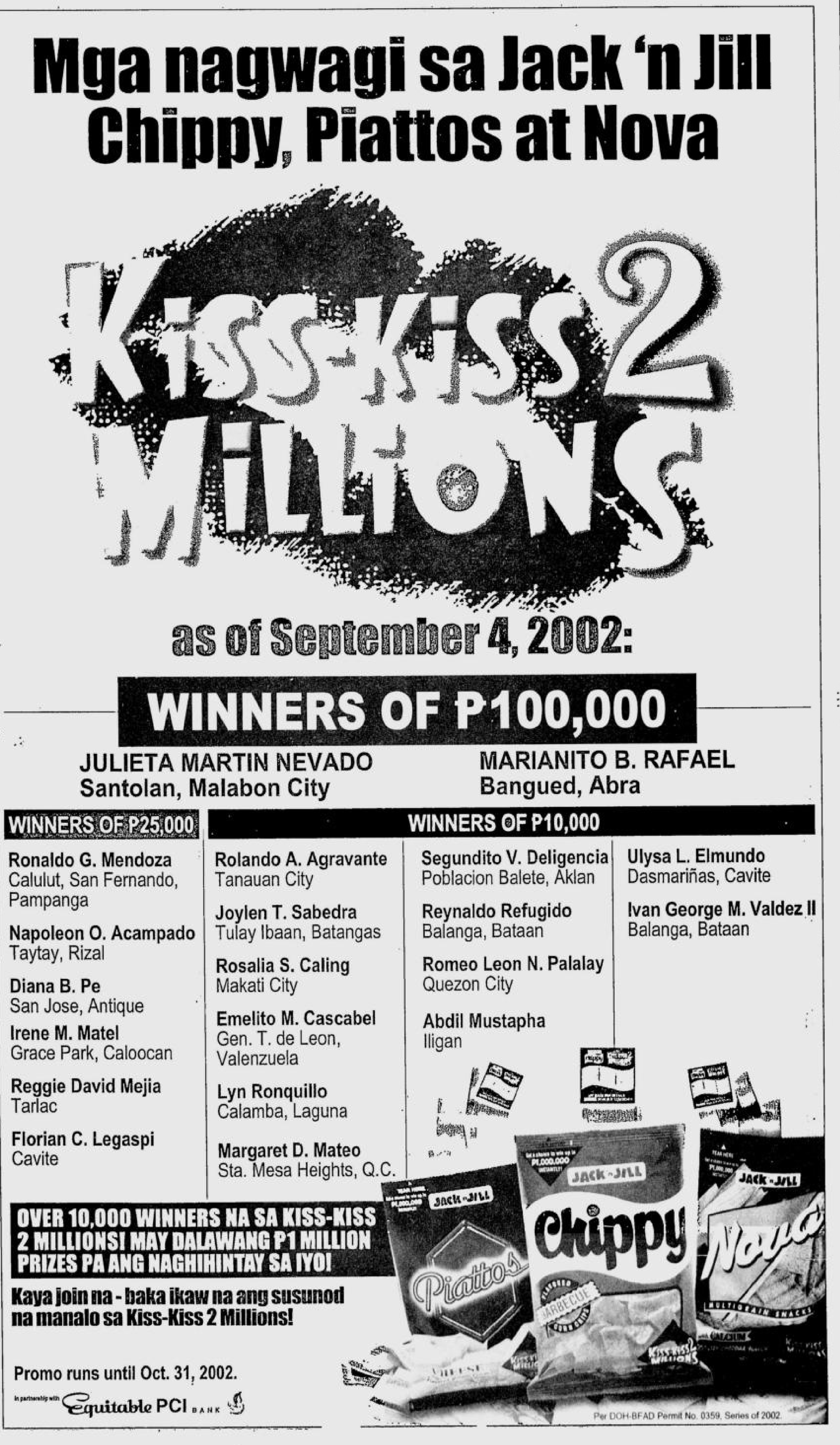
At present the FRM estimates that damages would not surpass the $1 million mark and that the HFA would not go beyond the target limit of 60 incidents.

"It is a proven fact that drugs blur the decision making capacity of individuals," Villasante said. "This is critical and dangerous if the person referred to is tasked with public safety."

DrugCheck Philippines calls on all public transport organizations, especially those tasked to ferry passengers to look into possible drug use among employees and drivers by giving them drug tests.

Villasante said that if not given proper attention, a drug problem within a company can hurt the bottom line.

But more important is the overriding concern for the safety and well-being of the general public must be safeguarded, he added.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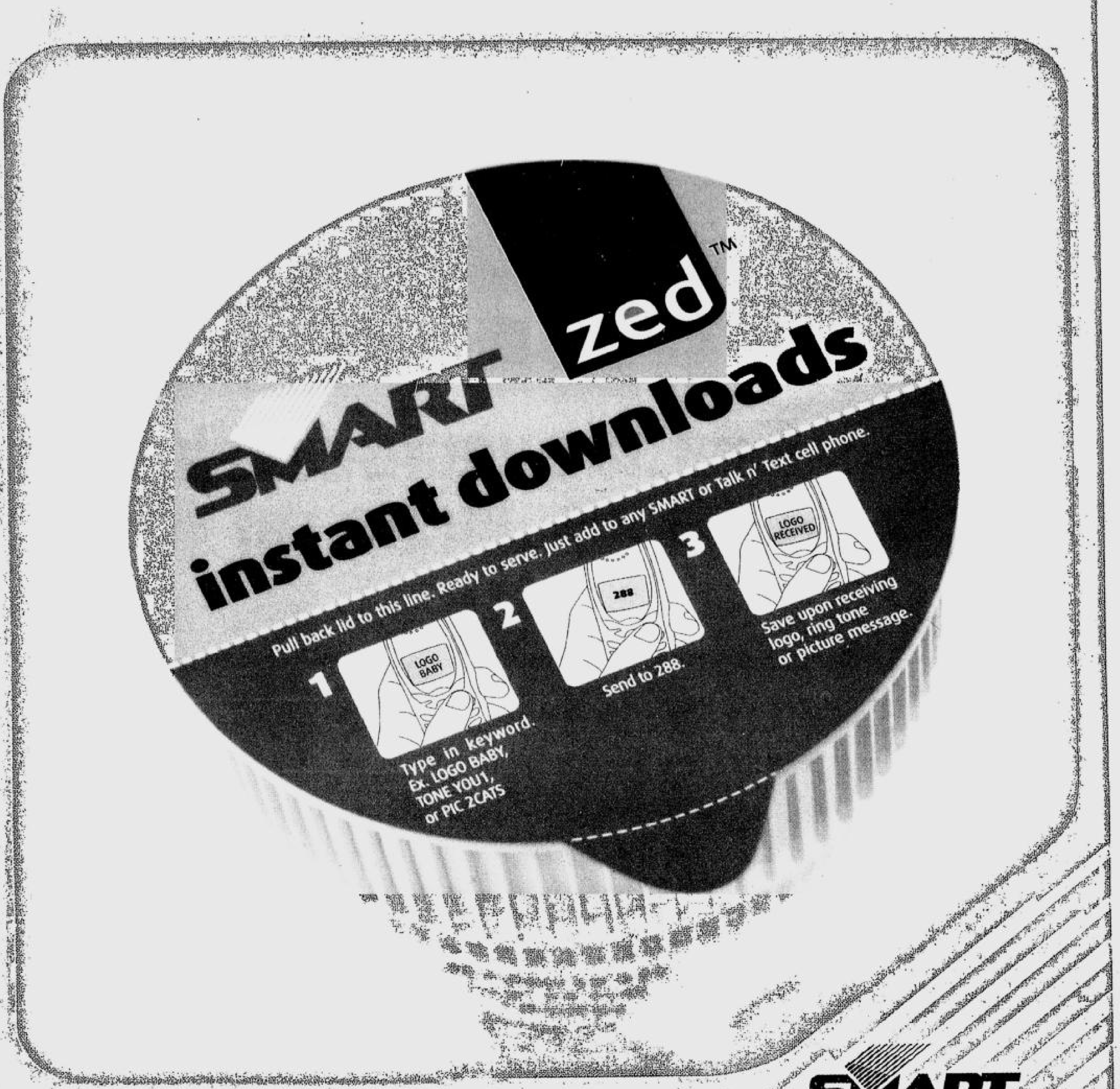
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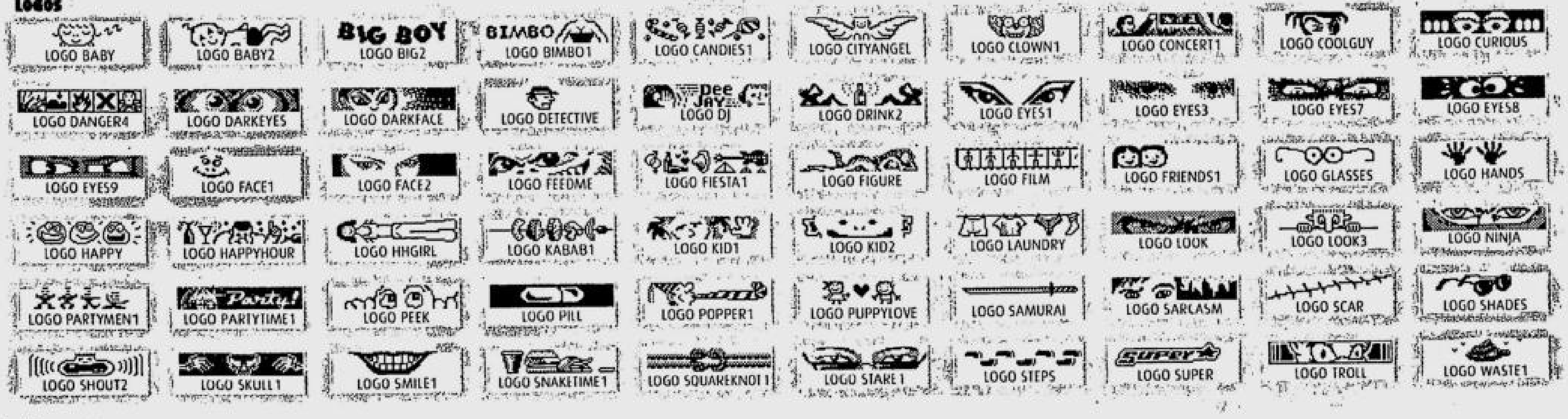
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LOGO COOLGUY
LOGO CURIOUS
LOGO DANGER4
LOGO DARKEYES
LOGO DARKFACE
LOGO DETECTIVE
LOGO DJ
LOGO DRINK2
LOGO EYES1
LOGO EYES3
LOGO EYES7
LOGO EYES8
LOGO EYES9
LOGO FACE1
LOGO FACE2
LOGO FEEDME
LOGO FIESTA1
LOGO FIGURE
LOGO FILM
LOGO FRIENDS1
LOGO GLASSES
LOGO HANDS
LOGO HAPPY
LOGO HAPPYHOUR
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LOGO KABAB1
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LOGO PARTYMEN1
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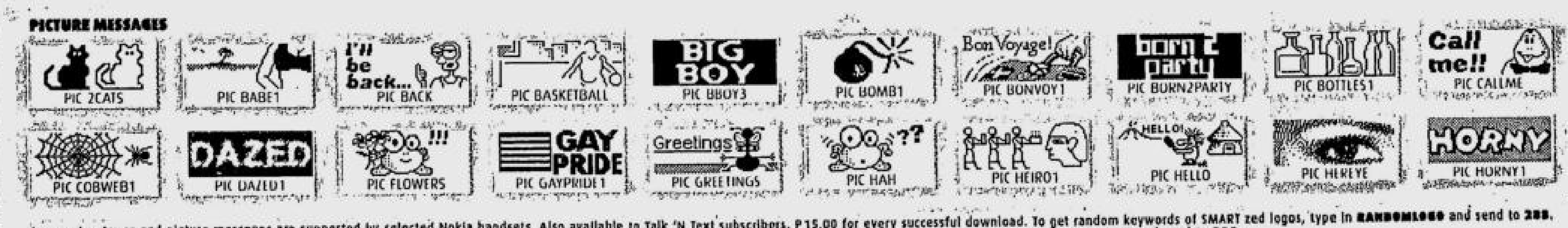
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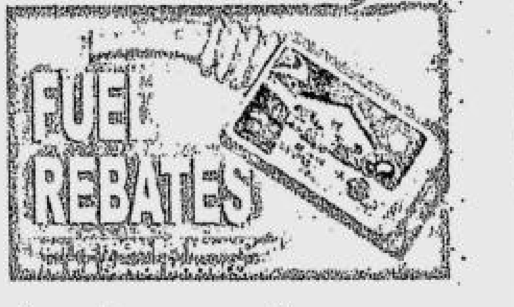
WHAT'S INSIDE

RP dangles naphtha supply contract to Singapore / B9

Gov't to subsidize exports of local assemblers / B3

BUSINESS

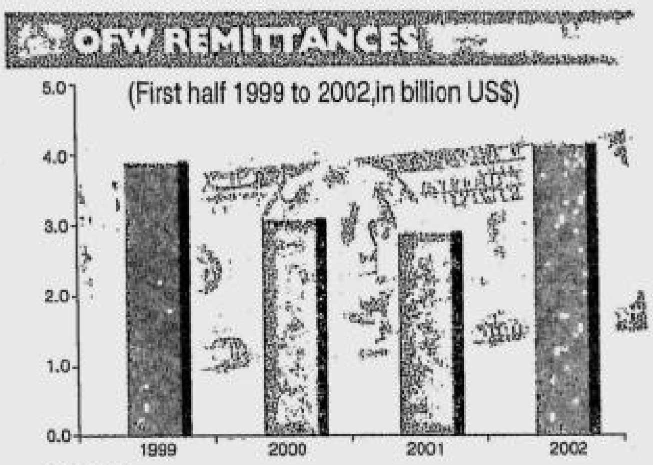
Editor Raul O. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma



6-month OFW remittances hit $4.14B

By Clarissa S. Batino

DOLLAR remittances of the country's close to five million overseas workers continued to surge in June, bringing the first half inflow to $4.14 billion or 43.2 percent more than last year's $2.89 billion.



SOURCE: BSP

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that the substantial increase in foreign exchange remittance was largely due to a 4.1-percent uptick in the number of Filipinos who left the country this year to work abroad.

But despite the dollars sent by Filipino workers to their families here, the peso remained volatile in June largely due to political and economic uncertainties. This was the time when the Senate had a leadership crisis and the government's fiscal deficit started swelling uncontrollably.

In June alone, the dollar earnings sent by Filipino workers abroad reached $525 million. This was, however, lower than the previous months' $791 million in May, $863 million in April and $905 million in March.

The improved dollar receipts helped the country achieve a gross national product growth of 4.9 percent in the first quarter while the growth in gross domestic product stood at only 3.8 percent.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. explained that a strong foreign exchange inflow helped meet the dollar requirements of local companies that, in turn, eased the pressure on the local currency specially during volatile periods.

The increased OFW remittance pushed the surplus in the country's income accounts to $2.75 billion as of June from $1.302 billion a year ago. The income account reflects the flow of funds largely due to trade in services.

Using data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the BSP noted that the number of Filipinos who were freshly hired and re-hired grew to 483,334 last June from 464,344 a year ago.

But this has yet to be reflected by a survey done in 2001 which placed the number of OFWs at 4.675 million.

The central bank said that aside from the Middle East, the newly hired and re-hired Filipinos also trooped to Europe, Africa, and the Americas.

"The government continues to step up marketing missions to promote Filipinos' skills abroad. Prospects are bright, with the expanded hiring in the United Kingdom, particularly in the medical field," Tetangco said.

He added that the improving prospects in the UK should help offset the impact of the "nationalization policies" and the economic slowdown in several economies where other Filipinos

6-MONTH/B9

Foreign debt up by $4B in end-June at $54.9B

THE COUNTRY'S foreign debt rose sharply as of June, or by 7.8 percent or $4.005 billion to $54.9 billion from $50.895 billion a year ago due largely to the aggressive borrowing program of the Macapagal administration and the weakness of the greenback against other currencies.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that compared to the previous quarter, the external debt went up by $1.5 billion from $53.4 billion as of end-March.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the country's foreign debt grew by more than $2 billion on the revaluation of the US dollar against other currencies, particularly the Japanese yen which was stronger than the greenback for most part of the second quarter.

Net repayments of $227 million and increased Philippine dollar bond holdings of residents worth $379 million helped offset the increase in external debt during the second quarter compared to the first quarter.

Since June 2001, the government had been borrowing aggressively from the foreign markets to finance a huge budget deficit that reached P147 billion last year and P144 billion as of August 2002. Since that time, the government had tapped the Japanese, European, and US markets for more than $2 billion in fresh funds.

Companies like PLDT, Globe Telecom, and JG Summit have also raised more than $1 billion worth of funds from the foreign markets.

The external debt stock data captured by the BSP included foreign borrowings of the government and the private sector that were obtained with the central bank's approval.

Even with the substantial government borrowings, the share of the public sector to the total debt stock declined slightly to 65 percent from 65.4 percent during the first quarter.

More than half of the loan disbursements went to transportation, communication and other infrastructure projects while 26 percent went to central bank's vaults for reserve. The rest were channeled to government projects in power, energy development, education, agriculture, among others, Tetangco said.

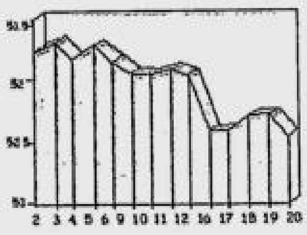
As in the previous quarter, 89.4 percent of the total foreign debt would mature in the medium and long term while 10.6 percent would lapse within a year.

Tetangco noted that the average maturity

FOREIGN/B9

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



SEPTEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 52.475 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 20, 2002

Y 123.84 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 20, 2002

GOLD: $322.30 - 322.80

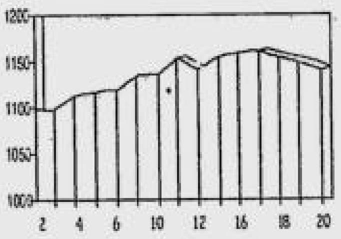
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 20, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end lower

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

SEPTEMBER



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES closed weaker for the third straight day yesterday with sentiment weighed down by the higher-than-targetted budget deficit in the first eight months of the year.

Traders said profit-taking persisted, particularly on mall developer SM Prime Holdings Inc. and property developer Ayala Land Inc., with the market testing its support level of 1,140 points.

Both SM and Ayala gained quite heavily last week.

"There was continuation of the profit-taking, but we were able to hold on to the support level. It's obviously because of the deficit, because of the big fiscal gap," said Henry Ong, vice president for sales of KGI Securities Inc.

The Philippine stock index slid 6.16 points or 0.54 percent to 1,142.87 points, recovering from an intra-day low of 1,138.08 points.

Ong said the market was likely to stay within its current range next week, but added there could be some gains in the offing after this week's correction. The market has lost 1.5 percent or 17.25 points this week.

The government said on Thursday the country's budget deficit reached P144 billion in the first eight months of the year, P14 billion above the original full-year deficit target of P130 billion.

Turnover on the stock market ballooned to P6.92 billion from the previous day's P350.06 million, boosted by cross sales in Global Business Bank and its parent Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. worth about P6.7 billion.

Losers were in a near two-to-one majority. *Reuters*

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

RECENTLY, Tatang Henry Sy's SM Prime bought into San Miguel. His buy-in raised a lot of eyebrows in the stock market.

You can see the eyebrows somewhere up there, even higher than the alleged overprice for the President Diosdado Macapagal Avenue in the reclaimed area.

Just to get a hold of a chair, Tatang spent close to P10 billion for the shares, paying 10 percent premium. The block entitles him to a seat in the San Miguel board.

Thus, the buy-in doesn't give Tatang control of anything in San Miguel. He occupies just one out of 15 board seats. Come to think of it, the PCGG has more.

If anything at all, as every Mon, Ding and Henry in the stock market known as "analyst" says, the buy-in can benefit San Miguel.

They say it's a solid vote of confidence for the tandem of Danding Conjuangco and Ramon Ang. Why they need a vote of confidence, maybe only the PCGG can say.

Coming from a filthy rich guy like Tatang, nevertheless, such a vote may be worth a million PR campaigns for investments by this cute administration.

* * *

MAYBE the buy-in says a mouthful about confidence. Tatang puts his money where his mouth is. Never mind that he chose the most promising business in the country today.

Actually, the San Miguel retirement fund sold the shares to Tatang. In the stock market, they are saying that Tatang in effect shored up the fund.

A big part of the fund was tied up in the closed Urban Bank, and the fund can only expect to get it all back in five long years. Tatang's P10 billion was a big help.

On the business side, they say San Miguel can also use the Tatang "magic." He uses it in retail, as he now has the biggest mall chain that is still getting bigger.

And what does Tatang get in return? They say it's the "logistics" of San Miguel. Its president, Ramon Ang, is setting it up as the country's strongest distribution bully.

They say it's all about the "dynamics" of two business empires. About the whaaat? Well, it's something like you scratch my back and I scratch yours.

Under the so-called Danding-Ramon tandem, San Miguel will make and distribute things cheaper than anybody else does. Tatang can then also sell them cheaper.

All right, whatever they say. But let me tell you, if I know him, in the long pull Tatang wants to make a lot of money out of the buy-in. Gosh, it is still just an investment!

* * *

NOW try to analyze this: The DTI wants to ban the importation of used small trucks, supposedly because they are "manufactured" (i.e. assembled) locally.

Those are the four-wheeler and six-wheeler trucks, used mainly by small time businessmen, such as for delivering rice to the markets.

Word is out that some DTI bigshot already called up the SBMA, ordering the ban on those small 6-ton trucks, which come into the country through the Subic freeport.

Reports are sketchy, but my info is, the ban is riding on the back of a plan which the DTI and the auto industry are trying to draw—a sketch-my-back, sketch-yours deal.

* * *

IT seems the deal involves the so-called revised motor vehicle development program.

This MVDP, or whatever a dozen other names it had before, is now about 30 years old.

Supposedly, the, er, "revised" edition is a "major rebuilding program," with export incentives, complete with subsidies, plus tariff barriers, to allow the industry to produce 200,000 units a year.

How come it sounds familiar? Maybe it's because I've heard it all a thousand times before! As I said, this is already a 30-year-old program.

If the local automotive industry only did what it said it would do in all those years, well, move over, Ferrari, we should be the world's automotive leader by now.

* * *

MY info is, the DTI plans to incorporate the ban on the importation of used small trucks into the revised program, which will be presented to Gloriaetta for signing. Hmm.

In other words, Gloriaetta has no choice. By approving the program, she must also approve the ban. This, in our barangay, is known as "forced to good."

I really don't know why the DTI is pushing for the ban. As I said, small businesses use those small trucks. And the imported used trucks are much cheaper.

It turns out that only two companies make (i.e. assemble from imported parts) such trucks locally. They are Isuzu and Mitsubishi.

Know what, according to Isuzu, if you order today, all you have to do is pay 50 percent down, and then you wait for two months to get your brand-new small truck.

And what about the price? Well, you only have to pay three to four times more than you do for the used trucks. Meaning, all your hard work goes to paying for the truck.

* * *

THEY say the Lopez group will benefit from the closure of Napocor's coal power plants, now the target of various groups, who worry about mercury pollution from the plants.

All right, maybe so, the Lopez group which owns controlling interest in Meralco, also owns power generating companies, although one of them is even a coal plant.

But just because the closure will favor the Lopez group, does it mean that we must not close down the coal plants anymore?

Sure, so that the Lopez group will not gain any advantage from the closure, let's just sacrifice our health. Let's all just lay down and die!

The issue is not who or who does not gain. The issue is health. This is being sacrificed for the sake of well... some big commission.

For why do you think we insist on running the coal plants using imported coal? It's not as if we will run out of electricity if we shut down those killers.

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ORGANIZED BY: Philippine Franchise Association

FREE
ENTRANCE TO THE EXHIBIT AND SEMINARS OF PHILPRINT, PACKAGING & PLASTICS

SCHEDULE OF FREE SEMINARS

SEPT 26 (THURSDAY)
2:00 - 3:00pm Getting Your Message Across - The Sony Style by: Solid Video Corporation
3:00 - 5:00pm JG Summit Evalene PP & PE Grades by: JG Summit

SEPT 27 (FRIDAY)
2:00 - 3:30pm The Moneymaking ABC's of Quick Printing Business by: Gakken Philippines, Inc.
3:30 - 5:00pm TGRAF/ American Technologies by: TGRAF/ American Technologies

PLUS........
Free Technical Seminars by the Packaging Institute of the Philippines
For Seminar schedule and details please contact Ms. Lesma Gonzales-Navarette at Tel. Nos. (632)687-3051/ 6873143 or email: pipmlax@info.com.ph

SPECIAL SEMINAR ON LEAN MANUFACTURING

BY THE SOCIETY OF MANUFACTURING ENGINEERS (SME) MANILA CHAPTER (BY RESERVATION ONLY)
For more details, contact Ms. Lily Atienza at telefax (632) 687- 4827 or email at lilyrose_atienza@hotmail.com

SEPT 25 (WEDNESDAY)
1:00 - 1:30pm Definition & History of Lean Manufacturing
1:30 - 2:00pm Elements of Lean Philosophy
2:00 - 2:30pm Waste Elimination
2:30 - 3:15pm Techniques of Lean Manufacturing
a) Value Stream Mapping
b) Measurable
3:15 - 3:30pm BREAK
3:30 - 6:00pm HHH Workshop

Presented by: Society of Manufacturing Engineers by: MS. MA MILDRED L. HAYAG Ford Production System (FPS) Specialist FORD MOTOR COMPANY PHILS.
Note: Includes manuals, snacks and certificate of attendance

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, September 20, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19.5	19	19.5	320,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47	47.5	47	47	617,500
China Banking Corp.	625	625	625	625	8,230
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29.5	29	29.5	160,800
First E-Bank Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35	35	34.5	34.5	102,500
Philippine National Bank	31	31	31	31	35,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	150	150	150	150	20
Manulife Financial Corp.	1120	1120	1090	1100	170
Sun Life Financial Serv.	870	880	870	875	450
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.25	23.25	22.5	22.5	7,900
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.52	0.55	0.52	0.53	1,110,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	500	500	497.5	497.5	7,150
Ipeople Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	100,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	100,000
Piltel	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	710,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	292.5	292.5	287.5	292.5	70,210
Ivantage Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	19,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	1,000
Manila Electric Co. B	31.5	32	31.5	32	209,400
Petron Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.62	152,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	3,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.46	2.48	2.44	2.48	360,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	90,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	20,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.6	3.65	3.6	3.65	63,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	30,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	20,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.44	0.66	0.44	0.66	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	14	13.75	14	108,900
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31	31	31	31	57,900
RFM Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53	54	809,700
San Miguel Corp. B	56	56.5	56	56.5	656,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	2,430,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg. A	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	20,000
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	2,332,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	3,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	150,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	2,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	10,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	36,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.245	0.25	0.24	0.245	1,620,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	20,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.15	390,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	12,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	318,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	13.25	13.5	13	13	1,224,500
House of Investments Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
Ionics Inc.	4.35	4.35	4.25	4.25	39,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings	0.85	1.26	0.85	1.26	4,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	1,590,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	1,990,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.71	40,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	3,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRI- & TRADING BUTION					
Cirro-Coat Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	5,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	25	25	25	25	300
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	6	6	6	6	3,000
Pryce Corp.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	1,100,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	200,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	250,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	540,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	218,000
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	10,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	2,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	4	4	4	4	17,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	3,655,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	190,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	400,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.17	0.175	0.165	0.175	190,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.12	1.06	1.12	1,938,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	150,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	40,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	95,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	5,690,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038	3,100,000
MINING					
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	90,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	1,000,000
South China Resources Inc	0.27	0.43	0.27	0.43	40,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	50,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	139,164,970	6,725,791,200.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	42,314,660	155,087,700.00
PRO	15,568,000	56,073,040.00
Mining	140,000	42,900.00
OIL	2,090,000	35,600.00
GRAND TOTALS:	199,467,630	6,937,579,190.00

DISCLOSURES

IN LINE with Alsons Cement Corp.'s reorganization, the following were designated officers of the company: Francis Felizardo, SVP-marketing, sales and distribution; Jocelyn Perez, SVP-human resources and communication; Roberto Lising, SVP-procurement; Paul Hunziker, VP-technology and engineering; Reynaldo Lomarda, VP-corporate planning; Ferdinand Pecson, VP for AFR; Rossana Marcelo, VP for MIS; Antonio Dumaliang, head-internal audit and Ma. Allen Morallos-Arbis, head-legal affairs and corporate secretary.

* * *

FIRST Metro Investment Corp. moved its Makati office to the 20th floor of GT Tower International, Ayala Avenue.

* * *

A.BROWN Co. Inc. bought 10,000 of its own shares at P0.50 per share.

CURRENCIES

Sept. 20, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.013171	1.000000	52.2540
Japan	Yen	0.008355	0.008246	0.4309
United Kingdom	Pound	1.576494	1.556000	81.3072
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.129904	0.128215	6.6997
Switzerland	Franc	0.683651	0.674764	35.2591
Canada	Dollar	0.643692	0.635324	33.1982
Singapore	Dollar	0.572964	0.565515	29.5504
Australia	Dollar	0.558159	0.550903	28.7869
Bahrain	Dinar	2.688170	2.653224	138.6416
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.270172	0.266660	13.9341
Brunei	Dollar	0.571348	0.563920	29.4671
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000111	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.023584	0.023277	1.2163
UAE	Dirham	0.275880	0.272294	14.2285
Korea	Won	0.000844	0.000833	0.0435
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.987000	51.5747
Argentina	Real	0.279110	0.275482	14.3950
Brazil	Real	0.297992	0.294118	15.3688
Denmark	Kroner	0.134591	0.132841	6.9415
India	Rupr	0.020959	0.020687	1.0810
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.266624	0.263158	13.7511
Mexico	New Peso	0.099535	0.098241	5.1335
New Zealand	Dollar	0.481156	0.474901	24.8155
Norway	Kroner	0.135879	0.134113	7.0079
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017143	0.016920	0.8841
South Africa	Rand	0.096321	0.095069	4.9677
Sweden	Kroner	0.109829	0.108401	5.6644
Syria	Pound	0.022922	0.022624	1.1822
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029359	0.028977	1.5142
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000696	0.000687	0.0359

Gov't to subsidize exports of local assemblers

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES will subsidize the export operations of vehicle makers through generous tax credits to be patterned after similar perks granted under the Export Development Act.

Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the tax credits granted to vehicle makers would be strictly performance-based to ensure that recipients fulfill their overseas sales commitments before availing themselves of the perks.

"We're currently reviewing the EDA to see how the tax credits were given to exporters before we draw up the guidelines on how to grant the tax credits and monitor compliance," Roxas said.

The export subsidy program is at the core of the newly overhauled Motor Vehicle Development Program (MVDP), which is geared to spur the export of more completely built up (CBU) vehicles particularly in the Asean where tariffs on vehicles are expected to fall below 6 percent (except in Malaysia) by 2003.

While subsidies are generally frowned upon by the World Trade Organization, Roxas said the Philippines was basically cleared to subsidize vehicle exports with the drop in the country's per capita income below the $1,000 threshold.

"Our per capita income dropped below $1,000 due to the devaluation of our currency in the past years and this gave us the window to give subsidies to develop our domestic industries," Roxas said.

Aside from subsidies, the new MVDP also set up barriers against used, right-hand drive vehicle imports from Subic; raised tariff barriers against vehicle imports from non-Asean countries, and extended the Asean Industrial Cooperation scheme at zero duty for another 10 years.

The new MVDP likewise pushed for the shift in the tax valuation of vehicles from engine displacement to sticker price and the discontinuation of the tax exemption granted to pickups, vans and 10-seater automobiles such as Asian utility vehicles.

Roxas said the new tax schedule for vehicles would make entry-level passenger cars (which account for most of the taxes paid by the industry at present) more affordable.

Based on its progressive value-based tax system, the government will charge 3 percent for all vehicles worth below P501,000; 15 percent for vehicles worth P1.001 million and below; 25 percent for vehicles worth below P1.501 million; 40 percent for vehicles worth P2.001 million and below, and 100 percent for vehicles worth more than P2 million.

"Filipinos are different from because their first choice of transportation are cars unlike bicycles or motorcycles which the Chinese or the Vietnamese prefer. Our goal is to make ownership of cars more affordable to a greater number of Filipinos by keeping taxes low," Roxas said. The entry-level cars are currently charged 15 percent.

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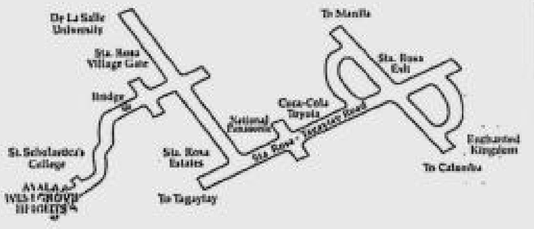

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2002

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang** ◉ *Assistant Editor* **Stella O. Gonzales**

RUPTURED BRAIN ANEURYSM

Steals life like a thief in the night

By Charles E. Buban

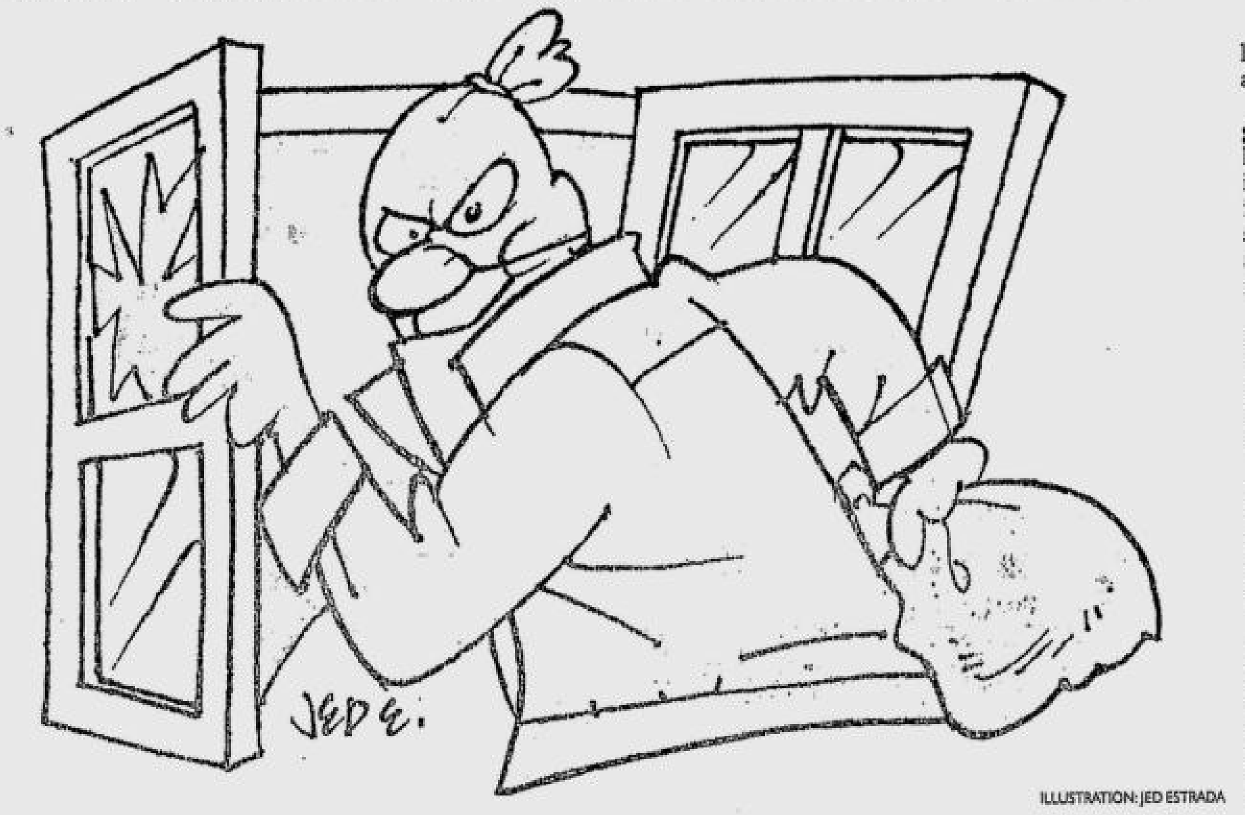


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

AN ANEURYSM in the brain looks like an inflated balloon sticking out from one of the arteries.

If you have a brain aneurysm, chances are, you wouldn't be aware of it. Many people with brain aneurysms live their whole lives without knowing they even have it. Sometimes, aneurysm in the brain can be present without symptoms, at other times it can cause strange symptoms.

An aneurysm in the brain usually causes trouble only when it ruptures. And when it does, it happens so suddenly and without warning.

When an aneurysm bleeds, it usually causes a sudden onset of the worst headache of your life. It is different from any headache you have ever had, especially in terms of its severity. Often, there is accompanying nausea and vomiting. If the bleeding is severe, the patient loses consciousness.

One-fourth of victims die

According to the US National Institutes of Health, one-fourth of the victims of ruptured aneurysm in the brain die within 24 hours, another one-fourth die in the next three months, another one-fourth survive with significant disabilities (such as paralysis and mental impairment) and the remaining one-fourth survive with few or no lingering problems.

An aneurysm is the result of a weakness in the wall of a blood vessel, either because you are born with it or you acquired it through your lifestyle. The flow or pressure of the blood passing through the vessel will cause a section of the wall to bulge. The wall gets thinner and weaker. At some point, the wall will get too weak and will rip and spill out blood.

"When an aneurysm ruptures, blood spills into the brain, often disrupting the organ's vital functions. This bleeding in the brain is called a hemorrhagic stroke," explained Dr. Joven Cuanang, president of the Stroke Society of the Philippines.

"Although hemorrhagic strokes account for only 28 percent of all strokes, they have a much higher mortality rate," he said.

According to Cuanang, patients who receive prompt treatment have the best chance of leading a normal life afterward. The patient must be taken to the nearest hospital with facilities for correct diagnosis and management.

Risk factors

Cuanang said controlling hypertension and addictive habits like smoking and excessive alcohol drinking and modifying your diet (limited intake of fats, oils and sweets) plus regular exercise can greatly reduce the chances of having a brain attack.

"Prevention should be the most important goal," he said.

"While risk factors like age, gender, a previous stroke, race and heredity are something we can't control, we can always do something about the other risk factors."

Symptoms of a ruptured aneurysm may include sudden and severe headache, neck stiffness, vision or speech impairment, loss of consciousness, weakness or numbness in any part of the body, double vision, loss of vision or other sudden visual changes, impaired speech, droopy eyelids, numbness or tingling, nausea and vomiting, and confusion and lethargy.

Recurrent headaches can be an indication of a small amount of bleeding in an aneurysm in the brain prior to a serious hemorrhage.

Other symptoms include seizures and neurological problems such as paralysis or loss of speech and memory. There can also be changes in mental capacity.

"The window of opportunity is within three hours from the onset of a brain attack. This is why hospitals must have special medical teams to address brain attack cases and equipment for early identification of the cause of the attack," Cuanang said.

Tests for aneurysm

There are several tests available to doctors and patients:

- **CT Scan (Computed Tomography).** This is a fast and painless test which requires you to lie very still on your back while you are pushed into a large, tubular machine that creates images of your brain.
- **CTA (Computed Tomographic Angiography).** This test combines a regular CT scan with a contrast dye injected into a vein. The dye travels to the arteries and images are created using a CT scan. These images are more enhanced and will show exactly how fluid is flowing into your brain arteries.
- **MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging).** This safe, painless diagnostic scan examines your head using a large doughnut-shaped magnet and a computer. The computer transforms radio waves into images.
- **MRA (Magnetic Resonance Angiography).** This scan combines a regular MRI with the contrast dye, which is injected into a major vein. The dye travels to the brain arteries and images are created using an MRI.
- **Angiogram (Arteriogram).** This test allows doctors to see the size, shape and location of the aneurysm, as well as reveal any bleeding. A small incision is made on one side, or both sides, of your groin and a thin tube (catheter) is threaded through arteries from the groin to the neck. A contrast dye is injected and X-rays are taken.

Sealing off the rupture

A ruptured aneurysm in the brain is often an emergency by the time it is discovered. Doctors try to stop the bleeding and damage to the brain and reduce the risk of recurrence.

Typically, a brain surgeon will close off the base of the aneurysm with a clamp or sutures. This approach is generally very effective, but it's not suitable for all patients.

Doctors have developed a new approach for treating aneurysms. Instead of cutting open the skull, the doctor threads a thin catheter through an artery in the leg all the way up to the brain. The catheter then releases tiny platinum coils that block the flow of blood to the aneurysm.

To err is human

DISCOVER

Massie K. Santos

NOW that Lance Bass is officially grounded for failing to pay the Russians the $20 million necessary to become the youngest astronaut ever (or would he have been a cosmonaut since it's a Russian ship and crew he'd have gone up with?), people are slowly turning their attention to other, albeit less popular, scientific news.

As Lance's dreams of someday appearing as a footnote in space history texts disappear, it is best to remember that even established scientists have made mistakes, some of which have come out in recent months.

In 1999, scientists at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory claimed to have found element 118, which they named ununoctium. In July 2001, however, the same journal in which they had originally announced their findings published a retraction from the team saying that since other groups had been unable to duplicate its results, it had no choice but to say that it had made a mistake.

While students are rejoicing over the fact that there is now one less element on the Periodic Table to worry about, think about how the original paper's authors must've felt upon admitting that their data was faulty. Fourteen scientists had to look over the results from other labs around the world, compare that information with their own data and conclude that they had made a mistake that should be publicly admitted.

Only Victor Ninov, the original paper's lead author, refused to sign the retraction, indicating his belief that element 118 exists despite lack of supporting evidence. He was fired earlier this year for having falsified the data used in the original paper.

Fish or tetrapod?

Nearly a year to the day the Berkeley team published its retraction, a researcher at the University Museum of Zoology in Cambridge, England announced that a fossil long thought to be of a long-extinct type of fish was actually one of the first creatures to explore the possibilities of living above water.

Scientists had long wondered exactly how creatures from the sea adapted and learned to live on land, and how fins and tails became paws. The time period attributed to this development—approximately 30 million years—is known as Romer's Gap, after the scientist who first observed the lack of hard evidence from this era.

Apparently, one of Jennifer Clack's students had seen the fossil in Scotland and showed it to his mentor, who quickly realized that the so-called "fish" had a pelvis and a lower limb with five digits, which meant it was a tetrapod—an animal with four legs and a backbone.

Clack says this particular skeleton belonged to a creature that would have looked like a very ugly crocodile. Credit goes to the student who saw what his mentor and her colleagues had never noticed before in all their previous trips to that museum.

Neanderthal baby

The last case of lost and found comes from France, where the skeleton of a 4-month-old Neanderthal baby was reassembled after being split up for nearly a century. Known as La Moustier, after the town where it was discovered, the 400,000-year-old skeleton was excavated in 1914, and then shipped off to a Paris museum in 1921. Somewhere along the way the skeleton was fragmented and presumed lost.

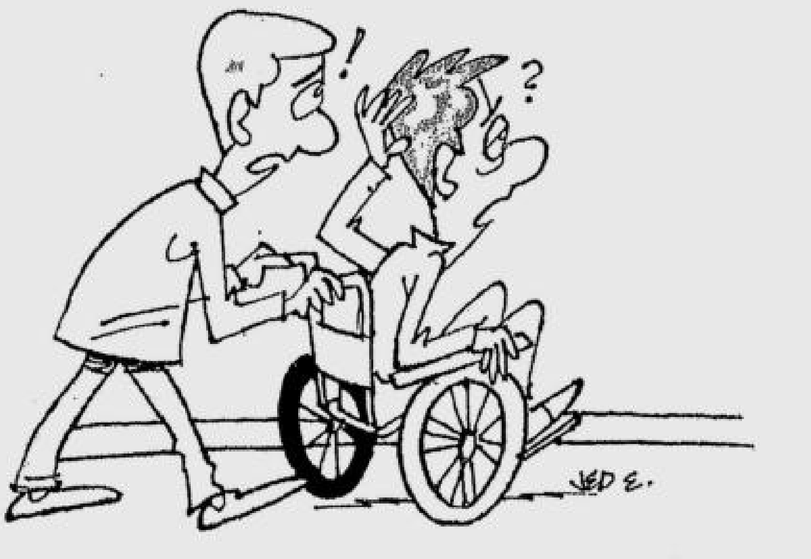
Then one day (isn't it convenient how these things just happen?), a researcher from the University of Bordeaux named Bruno Maureille was looking around the attic of the National Museum of Prehistory in Dordogne and found some dusty, unopened crates. One could almost hear a choir of angels singing "Hallelujah" when he looked inside them.

Over the next few years, Maureille was able to locate the separated bones and reassemble La Moustier. As only five other skeletons of infant Neanderthals have ever been found, the practically complete skeleton Maureille had documented is of immense value in the study of human evolution. More details can be found in the Sept. 5 issue of Nature.

Everyone is entitled to make mistakes, but in science, the stakes are higher because a mistake can turn fact into fiction, and vice versa. So while Lance says "Bye Bye Bye" to his dreams of outer space, scientists are singing Alanis Morrisette's "You Learn."

Rise in insurance forces hospitals to shutter wards

(Editor's note: Medical malpractice insurance is taking a heavy toll on the American health care system, according to this article that appeared in the New York Times on Aug. 25, 2002. The INQUIRER is reprinting excerpts with permission from Today.)



AROUND the country this summer, at least half a dozen hospitals have closed obstetric wards, others have curtailed trauma services, and a string of rural clinics have been temporarily shut as a result of soaring costs for medical malpractice insurance.

Mercy Hospital in West Philadelphia has closed its maternity ward, and the Largo medical Center near Tampa, Florida plans to do so in December.

In the last few weeks, the only trauma center in Las Vegas closed for 10 days; the Central Florida Regional Hospital in Sanford, Florida reduced surgical procedures for five days; and a handful or rural clinics across Mississippi sat empty in the summer heat for part of a week.

All the closings were due to problems with malpractice insurance.

Increasing malpractice costs over the last two years have led doctors to order batteries of costly exams and limit risky procedures; many doctors decided to retire early. Now the costs are directly affecting medical institutions and the care they deliver to patients, according to interviews with hospital administrators in many states.

Health services cut back

In all, more than 1,300 health care institutions have already been affected, according to a survey by the American Hospital Association. The survey, released in June, found that 20 percent of the association's 5,000-member hospitals and other health care organizations had cut back on services and six percent had eliminated some units. Many of those units are obstetric wards, where medical mistakes have historically led to expensive jury awards and settlements.

"It is likely that this is going to get much worse," said Carmela Coyle, the senior vice president for policy at the hospital association. "We're likely to see more closures of services."

So far no deaths have been attributed to the cutbacks, but hospitals say risks to patients are rising.

"Our trauma system has basically fallen apart," said Sam Cameron, the chief executive of the Mississippi Hospital Association. "There is a so-called Golden Hour in which a patient with a serious head injury needs to see a specialist like a neurosurgeon, and in some areas of our states that service is no longer available."

In West Virginia, two hospitals closed maternity wards and several hospitals no longer have either neurosurgeons to treat head injuries or orthopedists to mend broken bones, said Steven Summer, the chief executive of the West Virginia Hospital Association.

In New York City, many of the biggest hospitals have kept their insurance prices down by creating their own nonprofit insurance companies. No reductions in service have been reported in the city or elsewhere in the state.

Steven M. Visner, an insurance specialist at Ernst & Young, said many hospitals had inquired about starting their own insurance companies. But it takes more capital than many of them have, he said, and exposes the institution to greater risk than buying coverage from a commercial carrier.

The New Jersey Hospital Association says insurance costs in the state have nearly doubled in the last year. Gary Carter, the chief executive of the association, said that although most services were being maintained, some New Jersey hospitals say specialists are balking at taking on-call duties in emergency rooms.

He said: "We're expecting to see hospitals increasingly cutting back on services."

Insurance costs have also risen sharply in Connecticut, said Ken Roberts, a spokesperson for the Connecticut Hospital Association. But he said the association had received no reports of service curtailments.

Fewer specialists

Around the country, hospitals say they are cutting services both because the high cost of their own insurance is overwhelming and because specialists, unwilling to bear the new costs for insuring their practices, are becoming scarce.

Some specialists, for example, have abandoned life-long practices and started anew in states where malpractice insurance prices have yet to escalate. Many obstetricians and surgeons are restricting themselves to low-risk procedures. Still other specialists have become consultants, providing advice but leaving actual treatment to others to

The case of the beleaguered hospital director

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

IT WAS already past 2 a.m. of Sept. 13 when Dr. Fernando Melendres, beleaguered director of the Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP), finished packing his belongings in what is probably the most frugally furnished director's office in a big medical center.

It was the first day of his 90-day preventive suspension following a request by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo for the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission to conduct a formal investigation on the charges raised against him by several members of the medical staff.

A small crowd of sympathetic employees gathered in the director's office. Some were near tears, not knowing how to assuage their leader who they describe as a good and honest man and without whom there would be no LCP after it was burned several years ago.

The employees felt bad about some columnists who wrote inaccurate information regarding Dr. Melendres and the LCP controversy.

Majority support

It is not true that 90 percent of the medical staff and rank-and-file employees are against Dr. Melendres.

Within 24 hours after news of Dr. Melendres' suspension reached the hospital staff, 403 of 500 employees signed a manifesto expressing their strong support for their director. Some employees who were on leave even went to the hospital just to sign the manifesto.

Forty-seven senior medical consultants, highly respected leaders in their fields, signed another letter addressed to President Macapagal-Arroyo vouching for the integrity and honesty of Dr. Melendres.

Dr. Melendres' alleged addiction to Demerol is a half-truth. He had a "disc," or spinal cord, problem which caused excruciating pain that could only be relieved by Demerol. It's true that for a while he was dependent on Demerol, but he needed it so he could continue operating on his patients, many of whom were charity patients. It was admirable of Dr. Melendres to continue serving his indigent patients even when he himself was sick and in severe pain. After he had surgery to treat his disc problem, he was gradually weaned off Demerol.

Not a 'wife-beater'

I talked to his wife, Dr. Baby Melendres, who feels bad about a columnist's claim that she was beaten up by her husband "in front of many people." A verbal altercation is certainly not the same as wife-beating.

Dr. Melendres' appointment as LCP director did not come as a "surprise to everyone" as some have claimed. His credentials speak for themselves: class salutatorian at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, impressive training in general surgery and thoracic surgery here and abroad, a diplomate in surgery and a fellow of the Philippine College of Surgeons, a career executive service officer and a recipient of numerous awards attesting to his academic and professional excellence.

Someone proposed that Dr. Melendres be kicked out "to put the hospital back on keel again." At least 80 percent of the employees and medical consultants don't agree. In fact, they believe that Dr. Melendres' perseverance was a key factor in the rebuilding of the LCP after it was gutted. Many of these grateful employees say that without Dr. Melendres, there would be no Lung Center today.

I have always known how strict and brutally frank Dr. Melendres was, and still is, and I thought, too, that the majority of the employees would consider his suspension as good riddance. But the outpouring of support even from those he had sternly reprimanded in the past or had "rubbed the wrong way" is quite noteworthy.

"He is a very strict administrator, but he only has the welfare of the majority and the future of the hospital in mind," says Emily Tayao, a hospital clerk.

Glenda Picardal, ward nurse, adds that Melendres' dedication and discipline were key factors in the rehabilitation of the LCP.

'A black day'

Dr. Jesus de Jesus, a senior consultant of the center and a respected thoracic surgeon, regrets the suspension of Dr. Melendres and calls it a black day in the history of the hospital.

He recalls that Dr. Melendres rallied the hospital's 500 employees into a distinct show of *bayanihan* spirit as the center was rebuilt with whatever meager resources were made available for its reconstruction. The LCP is now almost fully functional, serving a good number of indigent patients with serious lung problems.

Dr. De Jesus is one of the 47 LCP consultants who signed the letter of support for Dr. Melendres that was addressed to the President. The group lamented the inaccurate reports that Dr. Melendres was highly unpopular among the doctors and non-medical staff.

"The media have apparently been influenced by a small number of disgruntled doctors and employees who were given disciplinary actions by Dr. Melendres," says Dr. Benigno Villanueva, a radiology consultant and one of the signatories.

Majority of the doctors I had a chance to interview described Dr. Melendres as a man of vision, honesty and integrity, who demonstrated good governance by example. Some of them complained about his style in handling people, but they agreed that at this critical stage of recovery, the LCP needs a strict director.

"He does not tolerate any hanky-panky, and it's ironic that he should get punished for unproven petty charges," laments Dr. Villanueva.

Many of his colleagues also admire Dr. Melendres for living a spartan and frugal lifestyle despite his status and position. The extremely modest furnishings in the director's office attest to this.

The doctors and employees also could not understand why Dr. Melendres had to be immediately suspended when the charges against him were relatively petty compared to the graft charges against government officials who continue to hold office. The money involved is quite small and, at most, Dr. Melendres can be only held accountable for procedural lapses or honest mistakes in his desire to expedite some actions for the center.

"Obviously, the cases against him are trumped up to soil his reputation and integrity," says Dr. De Jesus.

"We hope Dr. Melendres' beautiful vision for an integrated multi-specialty center for the poor, does not die with these developments," says Dr. Villanueva.

"It's sad that our country cannot seem to stand strict but honest, hard-working leaders who sacrifice their personal interests for the sake of the common good," adds Dr. De Jesus.

Many in the doctors' group agree.

It was almost 3 a.m. when Dr. Melendres and I parted ways the day he received his suspension order.

"We can only offer our sincere and dedicated service. Whether we are allowed to serve or not is up to the government. At least we tried," Dr. Melendres said, as he got into his old car filled with boxes containing his belongings.

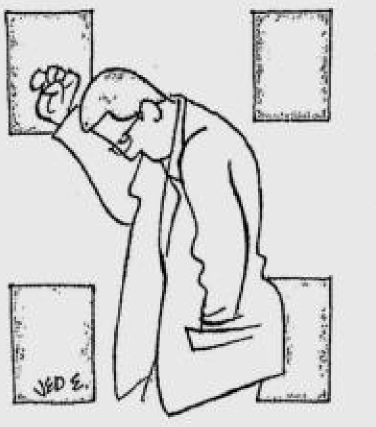


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Urinary incontinence need not be a problem

By Tessa R. Salazar

PRECY, 30, scribbles the number 35 in her diary. Thirty-five is the number of times she has to go to the toilet every day to empty her bladder. She tells her urologist she has to rush to a toilet even while she is in the middle of a conversation or when she's in a public place.

Precy is just one of many Filipinos who suffer from urinary incontinence. Dr. Maria Carmela Lapitan of the Philippine General Hospital urology department says her patients' ages range from 30 to 70.

Out of nearly a thousand Filipinos surveyed in 1998, 12 percent had a history of incontinence or episodes of involuntary urine leaks.

The good news, said Lapitan, is that these people don't have to suffer from incontinence for life because they can go to a doctor and seek treatment for it.

There are many types of urinary incontinence.

A leakage of small amounts of urine during physical movement like coughing, sneezing and exercising is known as stress incontinence. A leakage of large amounts of urine at unexpected times, including during sleep, is called urge incontinence.

Untimely urination due to physical disability, external obstacles or problems of communicating that prevent a person from reaching a toilet is known as functional incontinence. Overflow incontinence is an unexpected leakage of small amounts of urine due to a full bladder. Mixed incontinence is the combined result of stress and urge incontinence, while transient incontinence is a temporary leakage due to infection or medication.

Lapitan says many people would at first deny they have urinary incontinence.

"Technically speaking, if urine comes out without you wanting it to, it is already considered incontinence. What doctors consider significant incontinence that needs treatment is if the condition alters one's lifestyle," she said.

Lapitan said altering one's lifestyle may mean wearing panty liners, diapers or anything that would affect one's quality of life. Having the condition checked by doctors, she stressed, is important because it should be determined if the condition is just plain incontinence or a symptom of a more serious disease.

One of the factors that could help prevent stress incontinence is the pelvic muscle exercise, also known as kegel exercise, which strengthens the muscles that help keep the urethra closed. Lapitan warns, however, that the exercise will have to be done with the assistance of trained health care professionals.

There are also medicines that inhibit contraction of an overactive bladder. Implants are also available.

There is a new technique offered in the Philippines for female urinary incontinence. It is called the Tension-Free Vaginal Tape system. Proponents of TVT say that it has an 84 percent success rate and requires only a minimally invasive procedure. During surgery, the TVT repair tape is adjusted to ensure that the descended urethra is returned to its original position.

Questions and a puzzle from readers

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

TO UNCLOG my mailbox, I decided to reply to some interesting queries from readers. Miguel Florescio [migo1985@info.com.ph] asks about career opportunities in math:

I am a fourth year high school student and am interested to study in your university, specifically in the College of Science. I want to take up BS Math because of my intense interest and inclination toward this field. But I want to know the career opportunities for this specific course. What particular job environment would best fit if I graduate with a BS Math degree?

It is a misconception that BS Math graduates always end up teaching (although I am one of those). Ateneo offers applied mathematics courses which prepare graduates for a career in banking, finance, computer science, among others. Math is needed for high-tech fields such as these, and with a degree in this area, graduates will have an edge over others. For instance, an emerging area of concern is the treasury department of major banks which need people who understand derivatives, bonds, etc. A business background, of course, is important, but with in-depth mathematical understanding of these, graduates will perform better. Computer science is a practical field, but knowledge of computational mathematics does help. Moreover, because of the rigor and analysis math requires, it is an excellent preparation for law and philosophy. Many math majors have become successful, analytical lawyers.

Raiza Argel [raiza_argel@yahoo.com] asks about games:

I am a junior high school student and a regular reader of your column Mind Games. I have a math project which asks us to submit five crossword puzzles and games. I would like to ask for your help. Can you send me some of your puzzles? I find them interesting. I tried looking for your articles in past issues of the newspaper, but our maid already threw them away.

I have given numerous math puzzles and games through the years, and have included them in many of my books. You don't have to go through old issues of the INQUIRER. The website archive contains my past articles (both Saturday Eureka! and Wednesday Mind Games). If not, get hold of my books "Eureka!," "Straight Talk on Everyday Mysteries," "Why Do Bees Die After Stinging" and "When You Breathe, Do You Inspire?" They contain lots of puzzles, and should be available in National Bookstore and Powerbooks. If not, call Anvil Publishing at 671-9233 and ask for them.

Marjon Zubiri [marjonz@asti.dost.gov.ph] enjoyed the mirror spoon puzzle (Mind Games, June 19, 2002):

I really enjoyed this article! If only I had read this before I took up Physics (which deals with waves and light, etc.), my life would have been a lot easier. I was impressed by how simply you presented the subject matter. It took a lot longer—and basically a more boring—lecture before the concept starting sinking in when I took the course.

Thank you for your support. I hope professors find time to make their subjects interesting—and not more complicated than they really are.

My colleague Noel Cabral poses this teaser:

In one of the little-known adventures of Odysseus, he gets trapped in a dungeon with two doors—one leads to freedom and the other leads to death. One door is guarded by Cyclops, a one-eyed, man-eating giant. At the other door stands a Gorgon, a snake-haired woman whose gaze can turn people to stone.

To pass through either door, Odysseus must kill the creature that guards it. But first he must choose which door to take. To complicate things, only one of the guards tells the truth.

Odysseus went to Cyclops and asked, "Is this the door to freedom?" The Cyclops shook his head with a loud angry growl. Pausing for a moment, Odysseus asked another question. "If I were to ask the Gorgon whether her door leads to freedom, would she say so?" Another fierce growl was heard.

So Odysseus turned around, took out his sword and ran toward the Gorgon, aiming to chop off her head while still avoiding eye contact. What was the Cyclops' response? (What did the growl mean?)

What do you think? Send your answers to blessbook@yahoo.com. The first five readers to give the correct solution will each receive an autographed copy of my latest book, "How Dead Is the Moon? And Other Cosmic Questions" (Pasig, Anvil Publishing).

***

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D., is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She also writes the column "Mind Games" for www.inq7.net every Wednesday.)

EMERGENCY ROOM
CLOSED

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Hospitals are forced to cut services and close down wards due to rising medical malpractice insurance costs

avoid medical malpractice insurance altogether.

The costs have become truly staggering. Premiums for doctors have doubled and tripled, in some cases, rising to as high as $200,000 a year for obstetricians in Fort Lauderdale and Miami. But even those prices begin to look mild compared with gargantuan insurance bills for hospitals.

In Philadelphia, for example, the cost of malpractice insurance at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, which operates several hospitals, doubled this year, to $32 million. As a result, on June 30, Jefferson closed the maternity unit in its Methodist Hospital in South Philadelphia and cut 270 jobs at Thomas Jefferson and at the Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience.

In June, the Brandywine Hospital closed its trauma center, which served the southwestern suburbs of Philadelphia, and the Paoli Hospital, also near Philadelphia, closed its paramedic unit.

Many obstetrics units have struggled financially because of growing competition and reduced payments from the federal government and private insurers. That was true of the obstetrics units that closed on Friday at Mercy Hospital in West Philadelphia.

"We had been subsidizing the program because we had the resources," said Gavin Kerr, the chief executive of the Mercy Health System. "But as the malpractice premiums increased, that dramatically shrunk the resources.

"There are other obstetrics programs in the community," Mr. Kerr added, "but you want to have a baby as close to home as you can, in as comfortable a place as you can."

Lawsuits to blame?

The roots of the crisis are complex. The insurance companies, President Bush and the American Medical Association largely fault the rising cost of awards in malpractice lawsuits.

From 1995 to 2000, the average jury award jumped more than 70 percent, to $3.5 million, and a few claims since then have run to more than $40 million, according to Jury Verdict Research in Horsham, Pennsylvania.

J. Robert Hunter, the insurance director of the Consumer Federation of America, attributes the soaring premiums to insurance companies' mismanagement. The insurers acknowledge that through most of the last decade they dropped premium prices while battling for more business from doctors and hospitals, depending for profits on financial reserves and returns from booming equity and bond markets. Now, with Wall Street in a slump, the insurers say they must increase prices to survive. Mr. Hunter and other consumer advocates say the price shock is intolerable.

Mr. Bush and the AMA are campaigning for a federal law that would limit claims for pain and suffering to $250,000 in each malpractice case. The medical association is also urging state legislators to take similar action. Already this year, lawmakers in Pennsylvania and Nevada have imposed lawsuit limits, and Gov. Ronnie Musgrove of Mississippi is expected to call a special session of his state legislature to confront malpractice insurance costs.

Advocates of reducing the amount insurers have to pay for medical mistakes often cite California as a model. In the 1970s, California set a ceiling of $250,000 for jury awards for pain and suffering, and malpractice insurance have not soared there. But Harvey Rosenfeld of the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights in Santa Monica, California, says patients have suffered. Because of the cap on payouts, he said, many lawyers refuse to represent malpractice victims, making it difficult for them to pursue claims.

Lawsuit threats

Joanne Doroshow, the executive director of the Center for Justice and Democracy, a national consumer group based in Manhattan that focuses on the civil courts, says the threat of high jury awards helps keep doctors and hospitals practicing at their best.

Though many doctors find Ms Doroshow's reasoning offensive, and nearly all favor limiting jury awards, some acknowledge that the pressure to avoid any claims that could push their insurance costs even higher is causing them to adopt practices that enhance patient safety.

"We can't control what the insurance companies are charging us," said Dr. Craig Miller, the chief medical officer for Baptist Health Care in Pensacola, Florida which operates the community hospital in nearby Altmore, Alabama.

"And we can't control whether there is going to be tort reform. But we can control whether we are creating a safe environment. And we have a lot of patient safety initiatives."

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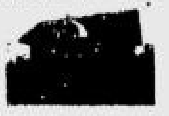

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MANILA

2BR CONDO UNIT
Only P12T/mo. Along V. Mapa Ext. Nr. San Juan & Ortigas w/ 1st class amenities Few units left 716-7039/7044

MALATE, MLA 1BR, 2BR, 3BR, PENTHSE UNITS 2YRS TO PAY T-0918-0132396

Nr La Salle 1.6M FFur 1BR 0919-6781363•433-6873

MANDALUYONG

Studio P580TH - P3.8M, RFO Back Polymedic 0915-8594925

PASIG

1BR w/views Ortigas Ctr 46m² 20Flr Call 911-8752

Nr Valle Verde No DP 5Yr 0 Int 6719051 6712049

ORTIGAS CENTER 'RUSH SALE' RESIDENCIA 8888 (a) 4BR FA-184sm FFurn, Park, Pool P8.3M(b) 3BR FA-123sm FFurn Park P6.1M Ed-6671600, 0917-8124693, Elmer 637-9121

OWN THOUSE IN ORTIGAS Only 161/mo. w/lanai, carport & roofdeck, Beside S&R Complex Avail big disc 656-1864 / 1862

QUEZON CITY

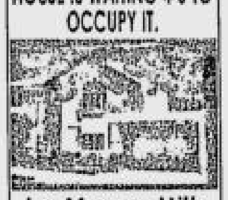
CASH / TERMS FA-245m²
3.2M Big Rms T4566508

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

PROVINCIAL

IF UR READY TO OCCUPY THIS HOUSE THEN THIS HOUSE IS WAITING 4 U TO OCCUPY IT.



La Marea Hills
8 Mins. From Alabang
Sn. Pedro, Laguna
@ P8,800.00 &UP/Mo.
20 YRS 2 PAY W/ 10%DP
GOLDWELL PROPERTIES
8326091 834-6840
5517902 834-6841

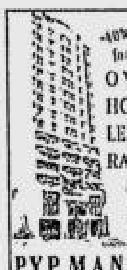
CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO Condo 1.4M 9132224

For Sale PANAY AVE. QC 2BR 2TB W/PKNG 0918-9170492/7263774

Nr Ateneo 1.8M 3BR 3TB Pkg 0919-6781363•433-6873



~40% Discount for Sept. & Oct.
OWN a HOME at LEASE RATES!!!
As low as P10,000 monthly
PYP MANSION II
Prime location, very near E.D.S.A., Araneta Center, MRT & transpo terminals, *just 5 mins. From Ortigas*
LIVE IN CONVENIENCE & STYLE w/ Elegant lobby Studio, 1,2&3 Bedroom Units Penthouses, Commercial Units and Ample Parking
EASY TERMS THRU BUY or LEASE TO OWN SCHEME
Tel:7232498,7237811
781 SANTOS DUMAS ST CUBAO QC

UNION SQ ONE FA80m² P1.64M 1BR 2T&B Vic 8903461 loc. 27

OTHER AREAS

Lex 6R Homes Kennon Baguio Camp7 Thse 3722298 P1.2M

PROVINCIAL

RUSH SALE BELLEREVE LAGUNA VERY LOW PRICE CALL 8454503 8432663

LOT

KALOOCAN

420m² @ P4,200 Balubad St. Amparo Subd Nova 801-6251

MANDALUYONG

Citiland Wack Wack Condo Studio Furn Call 3722298

MUNTINLUPA

PLEASANT VILL w/proposed rd direct to FILINVEST ALABANG 477m² P3,903/m² SOUTH GREEN-HEIGHTS VILL 300m² P3,833/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

PARANAQUE

Multinat'l LA600 661-9868

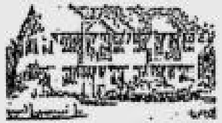
REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

COASTAL WOODS VILLAGE
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 25,000

VILLA FELIZA HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd.,
Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000



FORTE REALTY
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871-8318 961-7521
871-3249 780-4014
873-0787 815-2144
810-8019 810-7183
Welcome Brokers & Agents
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www.fortereally.com

LOT

QUEZON CITY

★ FERNDALE QC ★
Ayala Res Lots & Hse nr Golesco 204-290m² lots @ P9,700 & up Pay 20-30% Bal. 5 yrs. Mo. Interest 3BR 3TB 150 - 300m² @ P6M-P12M 2yrs-10yrs w/ Complete Facilities

★ AYALA GREENFIELD ★
Estate Calamba / Mt Makiling w/views 400-2000m² @P8000/m² & up Pay 20-30% Bal yrs Int. w/ A-1 Facilities
Banez 9319117 9319160

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS CHOICE LOTS with VIEW 929-1832 • 426-5650

SITIO SEVILLE NEOPOLITAN 470 SQM COR NARRA--IPIL P4800/SQM TEL 4127581

PROVINCIAL

TAAL Blngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P186/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

MEMORIAL LOT

Loyola Court Apostles Elevated Area Call 8219359

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

2HA PLARIDEL BULACAN Deng 931-4466 or 912-4573

FACTORY/WHSE

★RUSH SALE★
LA 1019sqm / Bldg 900sqm 118 F Pasco Santolan Pasig Ann/Len: 6465993 / 6459187

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MARIKINA

3BR 1TB P8T • 921-3844

PASIG

HOUSE 4 RENT 5Bedrooms 17 San Agustin CAP. 8 Pasig Tel#671-2114

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2BR Mkt 9Tmo. 8388487

Mkt. 2BR/Stud P8 5up 8906374

new studio/2BR/clinic/office very clean w/security guard impressive lobby w/elevator P7.5T no association dues no rent increase for 2 years 1672 Dian St., Mktl. nr Buendia. Call Rose 843-9418 or 536-9509

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

Masangkay-Binondo Resd'l & Commercial 0917-3610990 Emer

STUDIO TYPE 810-9314

PASIG

Valle Verde6 1BR • 810-9314

QUEZON CITY

2Sty Thse 2Br 2Tb Nr School, SM City Fairview • 935-6054

4BR 1TB Pagasa 931-4418

NEW MANILA NR ST. LUKE 0917-8471311 6T W / PKG STUDIO

SAN JUAN

Ghills 1BR CONDO • 810-9314

APARTMENT

MANDALUYONG

Nr. Crossing 10T • 631-5809

PASIG

KAPITOLYO STUDIO 6310239

QUEZON CITY

1BR Nr UP/Estwd 6815834

2BR 1CRG 22 VIRGINIA ST JORDAN VBAESA T2527227

2BR nr P. Tuazon 9125060 23 D. Tirona Proj 4

CUBAO Female P3.5 9124428

•P5.5T 1BR Proj6 T-9267383

PROJ2 Up/Dn 6T 9219520

FOR LEASE

53 GOV PASCUAL WHSE 3610652

Comml Lot @ Cubao 800sm & Karangalan Pasig 300sm Call • Rina @ 931-4418

ROOM & BOARD

Mkt.M/F Free Utlty/FF 8906331

New Ladies Dorm Nr UST Class"A" Tel.6451185/6810992

Studio F'nish Mkt 8992148

BUSINESS RENTAL

524 EDSA KALOOKAN 3610652

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3677523/24

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Gigie/Ernie 8903461 loc. 25/23

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

97 Honda VTI Civic Matic 385T Fully Loaded w/Spoiler Neg. Call: 0917-7954188

MITSUBISHI

00MX Full Loaded 1st Owner Silver •8330796 09175309804•

'95 L300FB Almzra P170T Call 4274681/09192545169

'96Lancer EL P187T 4227374

'97 Space Gear Skylite Impld Orig LHD Call 4536449

TOYOTA

98 TOYOTA CLOSED VAN P230T Vic/Gigie 8903461 Loc. 27

JEEP/JEEPNEY/AUV

97 ISUZU Alum VAN P170T Vic/Gigie 8903461 loc. 27

VAN/PICK-UP

'99 HI-ACE 500T NEGOTIABLE BENJAMIN 937-4599

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

OTHER CAR BRANDS

'96 Sportage Matic 4XWD Lady owner low mileage excellent condt Rush Tel-7888983 or 09174940716

Hi-Town Ace Delica Surf Pajero Trooper Terrano Safari Prado w/ Warranty A1 Call 9126976 ; 09178342020

BUSES/TRUCKS

USED GARBAGE TRUCKS
Buy late model WM Inc trucks & equip online. View current offerings at www.salvagesale.com only authorize mktplc for WM equip. lots of 10-30 units available

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

BULLDOZER / KOMATSU D-155-1A 2UNITS FOR 1.6M Call 997-3391 or 0916-5291164 Gerry

International Tank Lorry W/20K Aluminum Tank TEL. #8524036 Mr. Cruz

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4638295

ABC-CARS & VANS
Starex, Urvan, REVO, L300, HiAce, MB100, Altis, Honda, Celiro, Lancer, Corolla, Lynx, Corona, Exalta Mazda, Sentra
Manila H O 5368822 3039789
Q.C. Br. 4262278 4264064

CAR VANS 410-0495

★Vans Coaster Bus 440-9171

FCU CAR RENTAL
U DRIVE OR W/DRIVER
HONDA VAN LANCER
Tel 722-8434 / 722-8438

HI-ACE L-300 9206250

Udrive w/driver car Van Revo Coaster 8908667-69 www.avalonrentacar.com

L300/Vans 578-0917 (Roger)

MARIAN CARS BRIDAL VANS CSTER 8957247/8969956

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

STAREX MB HIACE 8276605

TOYCO TRANS SELF DRIVE CARS/VANS RENTALS 8006595

CAR LOAN

1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262780

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT ELITE PIANO CENTER Almost New:TERMS-7213124

PETS

Be Protected!
Own a Doberman from the
PHIL. DOG SCHOOL
Trains Dogs Scientifically Security-Guard Work Obedience Correct Bad Habits 721-3736 • 0917-8483181

CHINESE SHARPEIS 3725231

DALMATIAN PUPS w/ Shots n' Papers 09202477676

DOG TRAINER 09192050952

DOG TRAINER 4528681

GOLDEN RET PUP 426-1686

WANTED

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Accounting major graduate
- Computer literate
- Experienced preferred but not required
- Can work under pressure

Qualified applicants are invited to send-in their bio-data with recent photo indicating their desired compensation package to:

P.O. Box 1295, Manila
or apply in person to:
626 Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
(Infront of Funeraria Paz)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

★PUGS★WRINKLED 3726231

POODLE M/F 425-1606

SPORTING GOODS

BILLIARDS P30/33/36/38T A1 Qlty B.New 8020566/8014494

GYM Eqpt P25T(neg)4541531

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
and Other Swiss Watches Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair Tels 804-0404 • 834-2886

B/SELL EDUCL PLAN 8061574

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH 09178142309/7269687/4123543

DFCTIVE TV/COMPO 7325865

RITZ
FURNITURE/Used Clothing P.Books/ Magz/Shoes/Bags Utensils/Sewing Mach T.V. Filing Cab; REF;Stereo;Piano Call 373-2723 ; 373-2724

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5633742 5646593 09178473744

WE BUY
GOLD
HIGHEST PRICE
CALL: 8380946 8390060

MISCELLANEOUS

B/SELL FULLY PD EDUC PLAN GIE 780-0106 0917-7939637

FURNITURE

Rush Sale Lazy-Boy Chair-Recliner Call Pressy 09178972193

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

PHARMACIST
BOOKKEEPER
Computer literate, 21-28 years old, w/ w/o experience Call 297-4483 Cecil Mata

MALE/FEMALE

FREE Care Giver Seminar 5614990 5638009

★Ofc Staff 18-45 w/w/o exp★ Start ASAP 9134470 MARS

★Office Personnel★ 18-45 w/w/o exp Start ASAP Direct Hiring 421-6507 VINA

HRD STF 09194639391 IRIS

OFC PR 09192505572 JEHAN

OFC STAFF 09197553279 Porsch

Ofc Staff 18 45 Yo w/ w/o Exp. 0917-9438322 Wendel

OFC STF 09195249450 JOAN

OFC STF 5512388 MS. ELLA

OFC STF ALEX 09174925300

OFCSTF 09202545872 REXIE

OFCSTF MS. LG 09164863695

Office Staff Col grad/u-grad w/-w/o exp 4370454 Edna

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Pastry Shop Server with prev. Cafe-Resto Experience Needed-San Juan Area Fax 7123829-Drop-Resume 338 Ortigas Ave Unit ABC

Senior / Junior Stylist, Manicurist, Therapist for Salon SPA Call 645-2231

Travel Assistant 8215148/8214761

Upcoming Rest. In N.Greenhills is in need of a Gen. Mgr. College Graduate w/ 2-3yrs. exp. Drop resume w/pic.ID at 214 Villalobos St. Quiapo Mla. Mon-Sat 9-5

VETERINARIAN with extensive exposure in broiler & NUTRITIONIST with exp in feedmilling 8818696/2500254

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc.
#233 Buendia Shopping Plaza, Makati City will hold an Auction Sale on September 27,2002 at 9:00 AM.Including all items. Pawned up to April 2002. V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer.

NOTICE OF LOSS

That JR. Estrada & Sons. Inc. Stock Cert. No's 006, 012, 018, 024, 031, 036, 042, 049, and 054 under the name of Lourdes E. Ustaris was lost. If uncontested new certificate will be issued. (PDI-Sept 7,4,21,2002)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

TRAVEL N EARN FR HOME 8531006 09178901851 earn-and-travel.com

I MAKE P500,000.00/mo
[illegible]

Invest P7,391
EARN P20,800 a day
No Selling! No Gimmick!
0916-3725766 • 9284431

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
NEW FOUR (4) STOREY DORMITORY BUILDING
University Belt Area, Sampaloc, Manila
Floor Area-1200sqm
Accommodate 348 Students /Boarders complete with Cabinets/Lockers/Bookracks Beds/Tables/Chairs/ Mattresses, etc. Seven (7) Ground Floor Stalls/Spaces Available On-Lease Arrangement
DORMITORY BUILDING WAS DESIGNED & COULD BE EXTENDED UP TO EIGHT (8) STOREY HIGH
Pls contact Connie/Anton 9372622 •9372640 or 9361426

MARINE EQUIPT & ACCESSORIES FOR SALE
- Marine Transportation
- Marine Engineer
- Basic Seaman Course

Tels. 937-2622 / 937-2640

RTW P28.00 Up 727-4934

SAC SALE OWN LEAVING JAP REST GOOD LOC 1M NEG 8215151 8235067 BOY M

WEEK END MARKET
AT ROXAS BLVD.
Phil Trade Ctr cor Buendia
P250/day Stall Rental
Opens Nov. 9
First Come;First Serve
Priority Listing now going on
4101782 09178400026

WANTED TO RENT

- MOLASSES TANK; located along Pasig River; capacity of 6,000 to 10,000 MT; capable to receive cargo from molasses barges.
- Please send offer to fax (032) 3462001. For inquiry, please call cellphone 0918-9166165.

NOTICE

UNITOR AS or UNITOR SHIP SERVICE PTE. LTD, Lars Bergaust, Jeffrey Antley, Relinic International Trading Corporation, Danilo David and Rex G. Rico have withdrawn all their charges and counter charges against one another after reaching a settlement of all their differences.

A series of conferences in which each party explained and clarified his or its views has confirmed that Unitor and its officers have complied fully with all laws, rules and regulations pertinent to their business and that the suspected noncompliance therewith was absolutely nonexistent.

The filing of the cases against Unitor and its officers arose due to a lack of correct and complete information or understanding on the part of the complainants, and these have since been clarified to their satisfaction and of the agencies concerned.

(PDI - Sept. 21, 2002)

Trans Co
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANSCO 2002-002

Bid Date : October 22, 2002-2:00 P.M.
Pre-Bid Conference : October 8, 2002-2:00 P.M.
(CMMS Project Office)

Supply, Delivery, Installation, Configuration and Commissioning of the required Hardware, Software & Services to establish a Corporate Electronic Mail System and Internet Connection for the National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)

SOURCE OF FUNDING : FINANCED BY THE GOVERNMENT
APPROVED BUDGET FOR CONTRACT TO BE BID: P10,000,000.00

The following manufacturers/suppliers/distributors are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at CMMS Project Office, 2nd Floor, Bldg. 2, NPC-OBC, Quezon Ave. cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Quezon City.

a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships;
b. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
d. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., a group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract, provided that Filipino ownership thereof shall be at least sixty percent (60%); or
e. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).

Only Bids within the Approved Budget for Contract to be bid will be accepted.

Bidding documents are available on September 16-27, 2002 upon payment of P100.00 which is non-refundable. Issuance of bidding documents shall be from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and can be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Materials Management Division-TRANSCO from Mr. Winifred Z. Gatus at Ground Floor, Building 2, National Power Corporation, BIR Road cor. Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, Tel. Nos. 921-3479/924-5245, Fax Nos. 922-8432/924-5466.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

(Sgd.) JOSE B. BRILLANTES
Manager, HRA-TRANSCO &
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI-Sept. 14 & 21, 2002)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENCO 6

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
G6-2002-009

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) - GENCO 6 invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements

SCHEDULE		ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 15, 2002; 10:00 AM	
A1	1 LOT	ON SITE REPAIR/BUILD-UP OF SLIP RINGS EMPLOYING THE SELECTION PROCESS OF ELECTRO-CHEMICAL METALLIZING	3MAK-02-0325
		DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 15, 2002; 2:00 PM	
A2	2 LOT	SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATERIALS, TOOLS, EQUIPMENT, CONSUMABLES AND TECHNICAL SUPERVISION IN PAINTING OF MAKBAN SWITCHYARD AND GASYARD OF PLANT C	3MAK-02-0385
A3	1 LOT	SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATERIALS, TOOLS, EQUIPMENT, CONSUMABLES AND TECHNICAL SUPERVISION IN PAINTING OF MAKBAN SWITCHYARD AND GASYARD OF PLANT B	3MAK-02-0338
		DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 16, 2002; 10:00 AM	
B1	1 LOT	JO' SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ABS PIPE 2-1/2" DIA. AND FITTINGS POTABLE WATER LINE FROM PLANT A TO D OF MBGPP	3MAK-02-0052
		DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 16, 2002; 2:00 PM	
B2	1 LOT	ZERO BAR WIRE AND 5 OTHER OVERHEAD CRANE PARTS	3MAK-02-0392
B3	1 LOT	LEASED LINE CONNECTION FOR E-MAIL AND INTERNET ACCESS OF MBGPP	3MAK-02-0219
		DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 17, 2002; 10:00 AM	
C1	70 SETS 1 REEL	TENSION/SUSPENSION INSULATOR OVERHEAD GROUND WIRE HIGH STRENGTH GRADE, 5,000 FT./REEL, 3/8 OR 7/16 WITH INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING	3TIW-02-0065
C2	1 LOT	REHAB OF SUCTION PIT STRAINER OF COLD BASIN OF PLANTS ABC	3TIW-02-0017
		DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 17, 2002; 2:00 PM	
C3	1 SET	AIR COMPRESSOR, RECIPROCATING MOTOR DRIVEN, HORIZONTAL TANK MOUNT AIR COOLED, 10 HP, PORTABLE	3INGP-02-023
C4	1 SET	DRIVE AIR IMPACT WRENCHES, WITH COMPLETE SOCKET SIZE & HOSE	3INGP-02-022

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules on:
1) A1 - OCTOBER 8, 2002, 9:00 AM at SLRO Bidding Room
2) A2 - OCTOBER 8, 2002, 10:00 AM at SLRO Bidding Room
3) A3 - OCTOBER 8, 2002, 11:00 AM at SLRO Bidding Room
4) B1 - OCTOBER 8, 2002, 2:00 PM at SLRO Bidding Room
5) B2 - OCTOBER 8, 2002, 3:00 PM at SLRO Bidding Room

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from Procurement, Traffic and Warehousing Services (PTWS) Section, Administration Division, GENCO 6, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 starting September 24, 2002. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit - One percent (1%), Bank Guarantee - One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond - Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

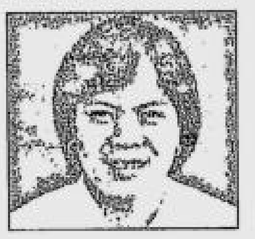
NPC-GENCO 6 reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids, and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) R. H. HERRERA
Chairman - BAC

(PDI - Sept. 21 & 29, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to infogm the general public that a warrant of arrest has been issued by the Regional Trial Court of Batangas, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 13, Lipa City, against



ROWENA PALICPIC ESTRELLANES

of Barangay San Lucas, Lipa City Batangas for malversation under Article 217 of the Revised Penal Code, under Criminal Case No. 0152-2000.

Any information leading to her immediate arrest may be reported to the management of Metro Lipa Water District, Lipa City Batangas with tel. nos. (043) 756-1670, 756-1611, 756-1118, 756-3450, 756-6972.

A reward of P100,000.00 awaits anybody who could give a reliable information that would lead to the immediate and successful arrest of the aforementioned person.

(PDI--Sept. 14, 15, 16, 20, 21 & 22, 2002)

PHILIPPINE POSTAL SAVINGS BANK, INC.

PostalBank Center, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila
ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO RE-BID

The **Philippine Postal Savings Bank, Inc.** through its Asset Management Committee (AMC) invites interested buyers to re-bid on any of the items listed below. The submission and opening of all bid proposals will be on October 10, 2002, 2:00 P.M. at 2nd Floor, Postal Bank Building, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila.

Code No.	*Location*	*Land Data*	*Floor Price*
01	Brgy. Silang Junction West Tagaytay City	10,000 sqm. subdivision lot	P22M
02	Cherry Homes Compound E. Rodriguez Ave., Moonwalk Village, Brgy. La Huerta Parañaque City	303 sqm. house & lot	P1.914M
03	Imperial Royale Townhouse Brgy. Talon Dos (Pamplona) La Piñas	66 sqm. house & lot	P1.518M
04	•Site 1 (315 N-W side of P. Herrera St. 25 meters N-W or 2 lots away from Pateros Nat H.S.	277 sqm. lot	P693,000.00
05	•Site 2 (N-E corner of S. Castillo & C. Sexon Sts. 200 meters N-E from Pateros Nat. H.S. within Brgy. Tavacalera	166 sqm. lot	P1.063M
06	Brgy. Bagong Lipunan, Cubao Quezon City	70 sqm. lot	P980,000.00
07	Brgy. Andagao, Kalibo, Aklan	819 sqm. lot	P1.47M
08	Km Post 439 Brgy. Balao, Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro	2,520 sqm. lot & cocktail	P504,000.00
09	Torre, Mangatarem, Pangasinan with improvement. Lot is along Provincial Road of Urbiz, Mangatarem, Pangasinan	300 sqm. house & lot	P502,858.00
10	Suaco, Mangatarem, Pangasinan with improvement. Lot is near right at the slope of the mountain.	2,044 sqm. house & lot	P506,100.00
11	Azurin Subd., San Jose, Antique	307 sqm. Residential lot	P460,500.00
12	Angang, Tuao, Cagayan	2,249 sqm. Residential lot	P168,000.00
13	Angang, Tuao, Cagayan	2,248.5 sqm. Residential lot	P146,000.00
14	Maguililing, Piat, Cagayan	1,500 sqm. Agri. lot	P180,000.00
15	Basi, Solana, Cagayan	1,012 sqm. Residential lot	P86,000.00
16	Galarin, Urbiztondo, Pangasinan	11,351 sqm. Residential/ Agricultural	P737,660.00
17	Real Urbiztondo, Pangasinan	11,651 sqm. Residential/ Agricultural	P913,750.00
18	Alos, Alaminos, Pangasinan	3,410 sqm. Residential Lot	P862,600.00
19	No. 42 Whitefield Street, White Plains, Quezon City *(Title for Reconstitution)*	437 sqm. Residential Lot	P9.161M

Code No.	*(Chattels)*		*Minimum Bid Price*
20	1 unit	1995 Toyota Tamaraw FX (TSE-132)	P168,750.00
21	1 unit	1996 Toyota Tamaraw FX (SFK-709)	P160,000.00
22	1 unit	Daewoo Racer GTI Model 1995 (SFT-104)	P 98,000.00
23	1 unit	Daewoo Prince Ace Model 1997 (USD-970)	P320,000.00
24	1unit	Mitsubishi Canter (Armor Car with Plate No. SFK-719)	P586,000.00

All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope with the Code No., corresponding to the property/chattel written on the face of the envelope. A deposit equivalent to 10% of the total offer is required upon acceptance of the proposal.

For chattels, a bid bond equivalent to 10% of total bid price in the form of Cash, Manager's Check/Cashier's Check only should be submitted with the proposal.

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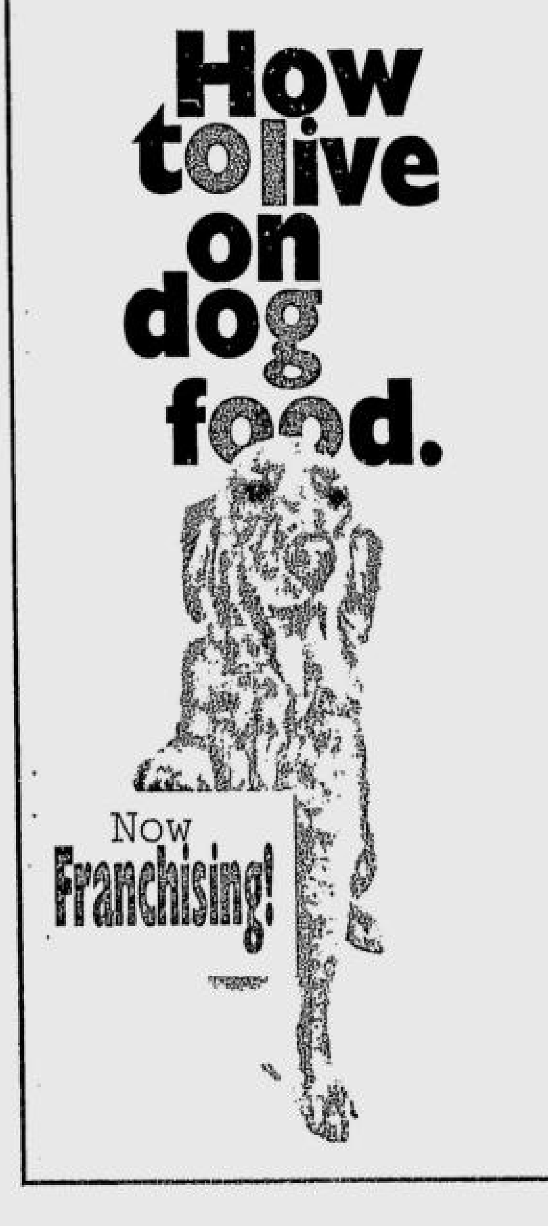
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Our heartfelt gratitude to all who offered Masses and prayers,
sent flowers, cards and messages of sympathy,
visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and
who in countless ways helped and comforted us
during our moment of bereavement over our beloved

RUDOLFO LARRACAS DE LA ROSA

Who passed away on August 13, 2002

From his wife **Marisa Valeriano**;
children **Ruvic** and **Monette**, **Ludette** and **Ogie**, **Pol**,
Marga and **Nelo**, **Luigi**, **Beng** and **Jeck**;
siblings **Linda** and **Tanny**, **Ching** and **Tony**, **Boy** and **Sonia**,
and other relatives.

Message of Thanks

We, the Family of
His Excellency

MOST REV. CELSO N. GUEVARRA D.D., S.T.D.

BISHOP EMERITUS
DIOCESE OF BALANGA, BATAAN

would like to express our profound gratitude for your spontaneous love, sympathy and support at the time of our great loss and sorrow.

We find strength and we are humbly grateful to God in knowing that he touched so many lives and organizations in his concern for others. He will continue living on in our hearts and through the lives we lead as testament to his legacy of love.

"VERITAS LIBERABIT NOS"

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

CYNTHIA C. CHUA

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

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Our Dearly Beloved

EMILIA SARTHOU SORIANO

Sagad, Pasig City, Metro Manila

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on September 18, 2002
at the age of 92.

Her loving children and their spouses **Estelita**, **Luzviminda**, **Licerio Jr.** and **Siony**, **Rolando** and **Herminia**, **Marita**, **Luisa** and **Leonardo**, **Julito**, **Ricardo** and **Phoebe**; grandchildren, great grandchildren; relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the family residence at 69 Dr. Pilapil Street, Sagad, Pasig City, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 22, 2002 at Pasig City Cemetery, Brgy. Caniogan at 3:00 PM.

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting offers to purchase as Second Tender, by way of sealed bids, the following commercial properties on an "As Is - Where Is" basis:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE	TERMS
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28	1 lot, 1,000 sqm. With TCT	Lot 11, Blk. C2-IN GMA, Cavite	4,000.00/sq.m.	Cash
29	5-door, 2 storey Apartment Building on a 230 sq.m. lot	Lot 6, Blk. 89 Hermosa Street, San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City	2,900,000.00	Cash

Interested parties may purchase one/any or all the lots offered, details of which may be secured for a non-refundable fee of PhP200.00 from the Commercial & Industrial Bids and Awards Committee (COINBAC), c/o CIED, Mezzanine Floor, NHA Building, Elliptical Road, Quezon City. For inquiry, please call Evelyn V. Ramos or Nori A. Subido at the ff. tel. nos.: 922-3001, 923-0390, 928-4561 loc. 302-303.

	SCHEDULE	
A.	*Submission of Pre-qualification Requirements*	Sept. 23 to Sept. 27, 2002 until 5 p.m. CIED Mezzanine Floor NHA Building, Quezon City
B.	*Pre-Bid Conference*	September 26, 2002 (Thursday) 2:30 p.m., Operations Center 3rd Floor, NHA Building
C.	*Submission of Sealed Bids*	September 30, 2002 (Monday) up to 12 noon, Operations Center 3rd floor, NHA Building
D.	*Opening of Bids*	September 30, 2002 (Monday) 1:30 p.m., Operations Center 3rd Floor, NHA Building

The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bid offers or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Assistant General Manager
& Chairman, COINBAC

(PDI--Sept. 21 & 24, 2002)

SM City Manila hosts Quiz Bee

SM City Manila of Shopping Center Management Corp. hosts the Division Championships of Manila and Pasay City for the 23rd National Super Quiz Bee NCR Eliminations on Saturday, Sept. 21, from 1:30-5:30 p.m. The event takes place at the Entertainment Plaza of SM City Manila.

There will be more than 128 private and public school students and teacher—coaches vying for the Division championship medals and certificates in the four subject categories namely, makabayan, mathematics, science and technology and general information and international affairs.

The National Super Quiz Bee (NSQB) is the longest running, most prestigious and most respected nationwide academic competition in the country. This year's presentor is Nutroplex Multivitamins with major sponsors Tetra Pak and Uni Writing Instruments. The major donors are Philippine Daily Inquirer, Junior Inquirer, JRS Express and Time Life Books. Other donors include Planetangpinoy, Netopia Internet Café and Monster Radio RX93.1.

The 23rd National Super Quiz Bee is in cooperation with the Office of the President, Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). NSQB district and division championships happen simultaneously in other cities and municipalities nationwide from Sept. 1-30. For more information on the 23rd National Super Quiz Bee log on to www.quizbee.com or call 712-06-82.

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RP dangles naphtha supply contract to Singapore

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES may give top priority to Singapore in the country's purchase of naphtha to gain the city state's support in delaying the tariff cuts on petrochemical products scheduled next year.

Naphtha is the base material for resins or polymers produced by local petrochemical firms. Although there is a pending government plan to build a naphtha cracker, local petrochemical companies currently get all their naphtha requirements from overseas suppliers.

A top official of a local petrochemical firm, who refused to be identified, said the government was likely to dangle a supply contract for naphtha to Singapore as compensation for the delay in opening up the petrochemical industry to imports.

Singapore is the biggest producer of petrochemicals in the region and it stands to gain the most from greater access of petrochemicals to the Philippine market next year.

Another major petrochemical player in the region, Thailand, has likewise agreed to hold bilateral consultations with the Philippines to get compensation in exchange for agreeing to the tariff delay.

Tariff on resins are set to fall to 5 percent from 15 this year under the Asean Free Trade Area-Common Effective Preferential Tariff (Afta-CEPT) program which starts next year. Petrochemical companies have appealed the government not only to exempt the industry from the Afta-CEPT but also to raise duties to 30 percent to give players more breathing spell to sharpen their operations.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II had informed the Asean of the Philippines' intent to invoke the Protocol of the Afta-CEPT, which allows member-countries to delay tariff cuts on select industries. Only Malaysia has so far used the Protocol to extend the protection accorded to its automotive industry.

The Protocol provision was adopted by Asean members to allow its members having a tough time implementing their CEPT commitments to temporarily delay the transfer of a product from the temporary exclusion list to the inclusion list.

Products under the inclusion list are deemed ready for tariff cuts while those in the temporary exclusion list would maintain some form of tariff protection.

Roxas noted that Malaysia was the only other country that has so far invoked the Protocol to protect her domestic automotive industry.

Roxas said Malaysia successfully worked out an amicable settlement with Indonesia and Thailand, the main opponents of the auto tariff delay, where they agreed to work on cooperative arrangements on possible joint cooperation in auto parts manufacturing and the steel industry.

TAXING PROBLEM

New laws needed to boost revenues

By Doris C. Dumlao

ADMINISTRATIVE reforms will not be enough to boost the government's poor tax collection if not accompanied by fresh legislative measures like the indexing of excise taxes against inflation, according to a local think tank.

A recently released economic review titled "A Taxing Problem" by the Lazaro Bernardo Tiu & Associates Inc. said it would entail tougher measures to increase the government's revenue collection and tighten the link between economic growth and tax receipts.

"While administrative measures will help, measures requiring legislation are also needed to fix the fiscal problem. For instance, legislation that would arrest the decline in excise tax revenues and allow for future indexing of unit excise taxes to preserve their real values would be important," the study said.

Citing estimates from the Department of Finance, the study said the indexing of oil taxes alone as against the inflation rate could boost excise tax revenues from petroleum products by some 46 percent.

"The fiscal sector would also benefit from the implementation of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), starting with the passage of the National Transmission Co. (Transco) franchise bill which will allow Transco to transfer its franchise to operate the transmission system and the power grid to its concessionaire," the study said.

The legislation of the Transco bill will pave the way for the privatization of the transmission system of the National Power Corp. and eventually of its generation assets.

"This in turn, will lift the burden of subsidizing NPC's operations from the national government," it said.

The study said the move to shift responsibility for long-term tax reform from within the BIR to concentrate on improving tax administration seemed to be in the right direction.

"As the experience of the former BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez showed, it is difficult for a sitting commissioner to tackle long-term reforms of the BIR while having to meet month to month revenue targets," the study said.

"Initial reports of improved collections right after his resignation point to agents within the BIR undermining his reform efforts. Commissioner Guillermo Parayno, who has an outstanding track record at the Bureau of Customs and is the first systems person to be appointed to head the BIR, is an excellent choice to succeed Commissioner Bañez," it said.

But while the economy could also rely on some "tried and tested" stabilizers to carry the economy through rough times, it said more reforms were needed to stabilize government finances over the medium term.

Among the stabilizers referred to were income remittances as financial and employment stabilizer and trade liberalization as price and wage stabilizer.

"Unfortunately, the fiscal problem is not one that can be solved overnight. Coupled with the country's low savings rate and continued dependence on foreign savings to fund large investment projects, it is not surprising that markets will continue to speculate on contagion risk from other emerging market crises (such as Brazil's)," it said.

Union Cement buying majority stake in Alsons

ALSONS Cement Corp. yesterday said its board of directors had approved the sale of a controlling stake in the firm to Union Cement Corp., the country's largest cement firm.

The sale will allow Swiss firm Holcim, the world's No. 2 cement group, to consolidate its Philippine interests. Holcim has stakes in Union Cement and holds indirect and direct stakes in Alsons.

Alsons' board also agreed to the plan to delist the firm's shares from the Philippine Stock Exchange after the acquisition, the company said in a statement to the exchange.

Alsons said Union Cement will buy an 88-percent stake of its outstanding capital from Alsons' major shareholder, Cemco Holdings Inc., via a share swap, with Union later opening a tender offer for all the remaining Alsons shares.

Holcim owns a 40-percent stake in Cemco and directly owns about 3.54 percent in Alsons.

"Based on the review of the Union Cement offer, the board agreed that ... the transaction will benefit both Alsons and Union Cement," Alsons said in its disclosure.

"The board agreed to communicate their recommendation for the shareholders of the corporation to accept the offer of Union Cement."

Alsons said some officers of Union Cement have already been appointed to senior positions in the firm preparatory to the closing of the sale. Holcim said in July the transaction should be closed in October.

Alsons was down one centavo at 24 centavos, while Union Cement fell 23 centavos to 44 centavos in light trade.

Reuters

SEC readies rules on election of independent directors

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission will come up with rules that will govern the settlement of disputes over the election of independent directors.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the commission should be prepared for a situation where the majority and minority stockholders of a company could not agree on the appointment of independent directors.

"We will have to determine who really is fit for the position (independent director)," Bautista said.

Under the Securities Regulation Code, an independent director refers to a person other than an officer or employee of a corporation, its parent or subsidiaries or any other individuals having a relationship with the corporation that could interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a director.

The SRC requires publicly-held companies to have at least two independent directors who will constitute at least 20 percent of the members of the board, whichever is lower.

The SEC chief said the commission would also have to decide whether a representative of the minority stockholders could qualify as an independent director.

She said she was inclined to agree that this should be so.

The SEC approved in April this year the Code of Corporate Governance requiring listed companies and those with secondary licenses with the SEC to have independent directors on their boards.

"I think most of them are complying," Bautista said.

The installation of independent directors on corporate boards was a move designed to provide better supervision of a company's management.

6-month ...

From page B1

were deployed.

The central bank hoped the dollar remittance from overseas workers would be stronger this year to help stabilize the local currency and complement the improved inflow from portfolio and direct investments.

Last year, OFW remittances went down by 8.1 percent or by $490 million to $5.56 billion from $6.05 billion the previous year as the number of Filipinos working abroad also declined.

In 2001, there were 100,000 less Filipinos deployed overseas from 4.8 million the year before. This was based on a survey conducted by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, an attached agency of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The central bank had noticed that some remittance inflow had been coursed through the smaller banks or even the money shops affiliated with the big banks.

Foreign exchange inflow from overseas workers comprises nearly 85 percent of the country's gross foreign exchange earnings. It normally accounts for the usual half-a-percentage point difference between the gross domestic product and the gross national product.

The central bank said a healthy remittance level should be one of the factors that would help push not only the peso up but also prod economic growth while global weakness remained.

The BSP said a healthy dollar inflow should help complement the performance of the domestic economy particularly from agriculture, services, and consumer and public spending.

Foreign debt up ...

From page B1

of the debts stood at 16.2 years as of the second quarter, slightly better than the 16.1 years during the previous three-month period.

The central bank said the government would continue to restructure loans by prolonging the maturity and keeping rates at the lowest possible levels.

Almost half or 45 percent of the external debt was owed to official creditors like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. These carry very low interest rates and long repayment periods.

Borrowings in the form of bonds, notes and certificates of deposits accounted for 27 percent. These borrowings were generally traded in offshore capital markets.

Obligations to banks, suppliers and other institutions comprised 23 percent.

The country's largest exposures remained mostly in US dollars at 56 percent and Japanese yen at 25 percent. The rest were denominated in 15 other currencies. *Clarissa Batino*

Time to Switch

September 24, 2002 • Makati Shangri-La Hotel

8:30 am-9:00 am	Morning Registration	Rizal Ballroom foyer area
9:00 am-11:30 am	Plenary Session	Rizal Ballroom A,B & C
12:30 pm-1:00 pm	Afternoon Registration	Rizal Ballroom foyer area
1:00 pm-4:30 pm	Animate Now!	Rizal C Ballroom
1:00 pm-4:30 pm	Driven by Design	Rizal A Ballroom
1:00 pm-4:30 pm	Xserve Live!	Makati A & B Function Room
1:00 pm-4:30 pm	Perfectly Focused	Rizal B Ballroom
5:00 pm-5:30 pm	Closing Remarks & Lucky Draw	Rizal Ballroom A & B

Join us for Time To Switch on September 24, 2002 at the Makati Shangri-La. We'll start off by giving you 10 reasons to switch to a Mac and demonstrating the power inside the latest multiplatform, multimedia operating system, Mac OSX 10.2 Jaguar. We've also invited renowned Mac experts to update you on the current developments in the multimedia world in our afternoon conferences. And to get you started on the Mac, we're giving away 3 iPods at the end of the conferences.

Animate Now! by Amy Quek demonstrates the most comprehensive and the most powerful 3D animation software for the Macintosh, Alias | Wavefront's Maya. We'll demonstrate the power behind some of Hollywood's biggest blockbusters.

Driven by Design by Aaron Tavakoli and Graham Perkins shows you new ways to expand your creativity with the many new features in the latest Adobe software, including PhotoShop 7.0, Illustrator 10, InDesign 2.0, GoLive 6.0 and LiveMotion 2.0

Xserve Live! by Richard Ng, Ching Ping Lee, Steven Siau and Nick Tham. See Apple's newest server solution that works out of the box with all major platforms from UNIX to Windows. And get the latest updates on digital information management.

Perfectly Focused by Ian Beattie, Joann Cordero Belen and Dennis Biela. Three experts tell you everything you need to know about digital imaging. From the basics of digital photography to editing your own videos and burning your own DVDs to streaming your videos on the web.

If you want to make the switch, visit http://www.asia.apple.com/ph/seminars or call 897-8228 or email tym_2_switch@yahoo.com to reserve a seat. The conference is free, but seating is limited, so register early.

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The further we go into this century, the more serious the role the internet plays in business. As geographical boundaries blur and a global community is formed in the internet, it is becoming increasingly important for corporations to be present in the cyber world. More and more companies are discovering that PLDT DSL is precisely that all-important vehicle that allows them to ride the internet wave and flow with what is current.

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WEBFACTORIAL CORPORATION (www.webfactorial.com) is a web services provider that specializes in website development. Professional services firms from different parts of the world tap into this company for help in creating their clients' websites on an outsourced basis.

Steve Walden, WebFactorial's President and CEO, likens the company to one of those factories in the Philippines that do electronic assembly, "Except that we send the raw materials and finished goods back and forth over the internet."

This is why a fast and dependable internet service provider is crucial to WebFactorial. This is how important PLDT DSL is to them.

One of the challenges that WebFactorial faces is to constantly prove itself especially to European and American companies who may be a bit distrustful about sending work to the Philippines, considering all that they read in their newspapers. "So our challenge is to get the first project with them," Mr. Walden says. "And when we can, we receive all of these files flawlessly with no problem and no delay. Then, we can get off to a good start."

Given the tight deadlines and the huge files sent through the internet, the company has come to depend upon PLDT DSL; it can't afford delays and glitches. Mr. Walden stresses, "We ship our products via PLDT DSL. So we have to get there on time or we'll lose the business."

But no worries, WebFactorial's PLDT DSL connection delivers speed and reliability to Steve and his staff so they can deliver impressive work at impressive speed. "When we can get client work turned around overnight, it just blows them away," Steve enthuses.

**WEBFACTORIAL President and CEO
Steve Walden**

PLDT DSL is proud to be part of WebFactorial's success. "We signed up when the service first became available and we've been very happy ever since," Steve emphasizes.

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Internet Café

NETOPIA · "It's like having a bigger library than the most expensive schools combined," is how Axel Kornerup, Founder and Chief Technology Officer of the Netopia chain of internet cafés, describes the advantages of having PLDT DSL in his cafés. Netopia has 40 internet utopias serviced by PLDT DSL throughout Metro Manila and Cebu that provides high-speed internet services.

Netopia opened its first café in 1997. It acquired PLDT DSL in the year 2000 and has seen how it has brought to its customers' fingertips information and technology that is cheaper, faster and more reliable. "It gives them value for money," Axel says. With 20 pesos, Netopia gives its customers lightning speed access to any information from anywhere in the world—thanks to PLDT DSL, which is amazingly reasonably-priced considering that it is 10 times faster and more reliable than any dial-up access. "It has raised the bar of the internet business," Axel says.

Axel is proud of how Netopia cafés contribute to the lives of his customers as well as his employees. He says it "empowers people by giving them access to information," and explains how sometimes new members of his staff may come into the company not all that well-versed in computers, but in the end find doors that open into a world that transforms them. His customers are happy with the faster and cheaper service they get. One "success story" he loves to talk about is how a Lola came in wanting to email her apo in Saudi but did not know how to do it. A technician did it for her right in front of her excited eyes.

With common access to computers, PLDT DSL addresses the digital divide. Many may not understand how the internet works, but when they come into a Netopia café, and are able to email a friend who is thousands of miles away, learn information he may never find in books or magazines, talk virtually face-to-face with a relative abroad, they understand and know that they can depend on the service the café gives them—something made possible through Netopia's successful tie-up with PLDT DSL.

**NETOPIA's Founder and
Chief Technology Officer, Axel Kornerup**

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Toronto offers fair but not fabulous films

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JULIANNE Moore turns in another exceptional performance in "Far From Heaven."

By David Germain

TORONTO—Plenty of decent—but not great—movies were the rule at the 27th annual Toronto International Film Festival, which ended last Saturday with audiences and critics finding the overall lineup a bit lackluster.

Highlights

Some highlights from among 265 feature-length films that played during the 10-day festival:

"Far From Heaven." Another Academy Awards prospect for Julianne Moore, reuniting with writer-director Todd Haynes ("Safe"), who crafts a film that strikingly resembles the rich color and passion of Douglas Sirk's 1950s family melodramas. Dennis Quaid and Dennis Haysbert co-star in the story of a picture-perfect marriage that runs aground in the racism and homophobia of the Eisenhower decade.

"8 Mile." "Saturday Night Fever" for the hip-hop age. Eminem brings an understated, surprisingly affable presence to Curtis Hanson's tale of a rising young rapper, a rare "work-in-progress" screened at the festival. With heart, humor and great camaraderie among its cast of urban poets, the high-energy film follows a talented kid from Detroit's mean streets gradually emerging beyond his dreary upbringing and the friends of youth.

Flash floods

"Lost in La Mancha." Even in failure, Terry Gilliam produces an interesting film. This documentary by Keith Fulton and Louis Pepe traces Gilliam's collapsed "Don Quixote" fantasy, shut down after six days of production because of flash floods and an ailing lead actor.

This is a rare glimpse at the fragility of collaborative art and the doggedness of a quixotic filmmaker whose absurdist journey strangely parallels his main character's.

"The Guys." Adapted from Anne Nelson's play about a writer (Sigourney Weaver) with the anguishing task of helping a fire captain (Anthony LaPaglia) prepare eulogies for men killed Sept. 11 at the World Trade Center. You might think our collective hurt has greatly healed in a year, but it surges back watching these unlikely comrades in distress. Director Jim Simpson, Weaver's husband, offers a moving reminder of lost heroes and those grieving them.

"White Oleander." Newcomer Alison Lohman holds her own opposite Michelle Pfeiffer, Renee Zellweger and Robin Wright Penn in an adaptation of Janet Fitch's novel about a teen hurled into horrific foster homes after her mother is jailed for murder. A downbeat drama, yet director Peter Kosminsky and Lohman playfully adapt the look and attitude of their heroine to her successive situations, and the ending offers a whiff of hope.

"Frida." Salma Hayek makes an impressive bid for Academy Awards consideration with a zestful performance as free-spirited Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, wife of Diego Rivera (Alfred Molina, another potential Oscar contender).

TORONTO/C2

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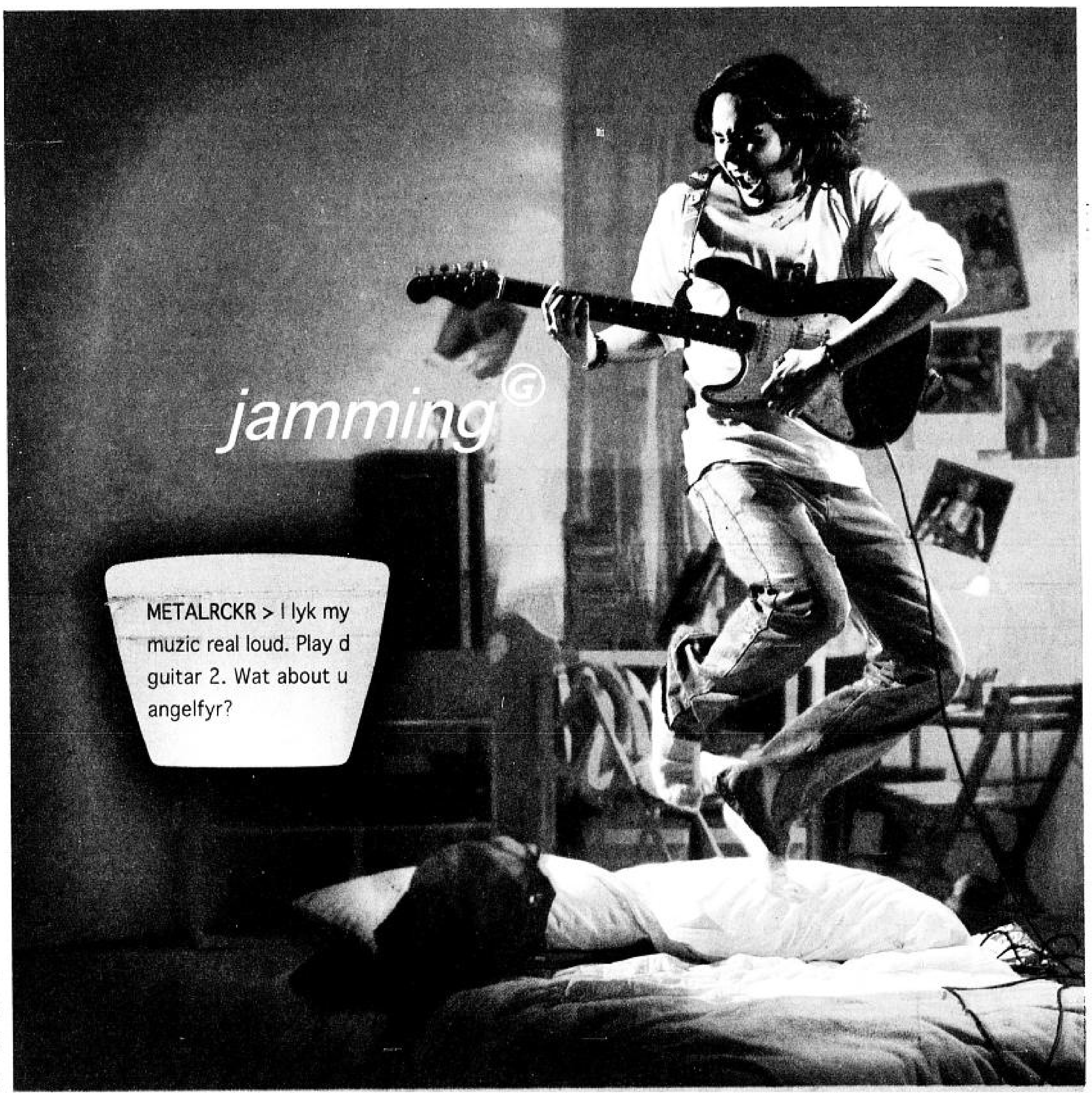
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Devon Sawa tries his hand at action

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

THIS week's Q and A:

From *Anna Faith Sajise of Nabas, Aklan: "What's new with Devon Sawa? Can you tell me something about his personal life, or his upcoming movies? What are they about? Please include his address."*

Devon turned 24 years old last Sept. 7. The tall (6') boyish-looking heartthrob from Canada, who rose to fame as the teen-age human form of Casper, the friendly ghost, has managed to stay busy even after capturing the imagination of millions of teen-age girls with just five minutes of screen time in "Casper."

Popularity

Anna, you must have seen Devon's turns in "Idle Hands," "Final Destination, "Now and Then" and his most recent film, "Slackers," shown in local theaters about a month ago. His popularity among the teen-and-yuppie set rose even more when he agreed to play the dark title character in Eminem's shocking MTV, "Stan." (Remember this music video with more bleeps in its lyrics than a Jerry Springer show?)

In between movie and TV assignments, Devon managed to go back to his studies at the Vancouver Film School, where he was the youngest in his class.

His next movie slated for release this year is "The Extremists," with Rufus Sewell, Bridgette Wilson-Sampras and Rupert Graves. It is a high-adrenaline, extreme-sports action flick that follows the (mis)adventures of a film crew that has traveled to the Austrian Alps near the former Yugoslav border.

They're there to film four extreme sports enthusiasts while they are being chased by an avalanche for a commercial, not knowing that they are filming near the secret hideout of a Serbian war criminal.

Blast

Devon says, "Filming the movie was a blast!" The movie features skiing, snowboarding, skydiving, kayaking, white water rafting, base jumping, motorcycle and helicopter rides.

Write him c/o the Innovative Artists Agency, 1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 2850, Los Angeles, California 90067, USA or at 4000 Warner Blvd. Bldg., Burbank, Ca 95122, USA.

From *Sabrina Sanchez of Mexico, Pampanga: "I like your column because you are open to your readers' points of view. Please feature my favorite animé, 'Slam Dunk' and the six star players of the Shohoku team."*

Thank you, Sabrina. AXN's (Mondays to Fridays, 7:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.) "Slam Dunk" is one of the action channel's more popular animé series. Among others, it features the teams of Shohoku, Ryonan, Shoyo, Kainan, Toyotama and Sannoh.

Here are capsule profiles of some of the team's movers:

Coach Anzai is a former player of Japan's national team and a former university basketball coach who was disheartened when he lost a favorite student, so he turned to high school coaching.

Good at rebounds

Capt. Takenori Akagi (Nickname: Gorilla/Leader; third year; birthday: May 10; position: center) is good at rebounds, but poor at shooting.

SAWA. His next film, "The Extremists," will be shown this year.

Vice Capt. Kominobu Kogure (Nickname: Mr. Glasses; third year; b'day: July 12; position: reserved forward because he is small) is known to be the peacemaker of the group. Ryouta Miyagi (Nickname: Flash of Lightning; b'day: July 31; second year; position: point guard) is hotheaded and easily provoked. He was rejected by 10 girls in one year! (Ouch!)

Hisashi Mitsui (Nickname: MVP/Xiao Jing; third year; b'day: May 22; position: shooting guard) is his team's best three-point shooter.

Rounding out the members of the Shohoku team are: Hannamichi Sakuragi (Nickname: Genius/Idiot; b'day: April 1; position: power forward), Yasuharu Yasuda (Nickname: Xiao An; 2nd year; b'day: Mar 28; position: reserved point guard) and Kaede Rukawa (Nickname: Fox/Shohoku's Ace; b'day: Jan 1).

If you visit their geocities website, you'll even hear the show's theme song while browsing.

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Movie people protest reduction of Mowelfund's MMFF share

By Nestor U. Torre

MOVIE work can be glamorous, exciting and profitable for big stars and other major players, but for most of the local film industry's lesser lights, it can be quite difficult and frustrating.

No job security

Since many of them are hired per day, or on a per-film basis, they have no job security, earn very little in one year, have to go into hock, don't have money to pay for medicines and hospitalization, and even run the risk of dying a pauper's death.

That's why the Movie Workers Welfare Foundation (Mowelfund) is such an essential service to many movie people. It helps tide them over through rough times, and thus makes a big difference in their cash-strapped lives.

In the past, Mowelfund got its money from 60 percent of the income of the annual Metro Manila Film Festival. This very welcome grant enabled Mowelfund to give between P3 million and P4 million in benefits to movie workers each year.

Big reduction

Recently, however, the percentage of distribution of the amusement taxes in the yearend festival was "rearranged," and it has been decided that, starting this year, Mowelfund will get only 10 percent, a big reduction from its usual 60 percent.

This reduction means that Mowelfund will be able to provide only around P1.2 million in benefits this year. Think of all of the needy movie workers who will have to further tighten their already very tight belts!

Other purposes

How has this come to pass? One view has it that, since Mowelfund was the brainchild of Joseph Estrada, now that he's no longer president, the benefits group has lost its "clout" with the powers that be. Others also believe that some of the group's funds were used for other purposes.

But people familiar with Mowelfund's finances insist that there was no such hanky-panky, and that the money did go to movie workers in need. As for the Erap connection, it's deemed irrelevant because the group has continued to help movie workers regardless of Estrada's good or bad times.

Petition

That's why a petition is currently being circulated among Mowelfund members and beneficiaries, to appeal to President Arroyo to rescind the instruction to drastically reduce the benefits group's annual subsidy from the Metro filmfest. Otherwise, hundreds of movie workers will suffer.

Film people and students are also protesting the cut in subsidy because the benefits group runs the Mowelfund Film Institute, which is becoming the center for hands-on film training in this country.

Quite a number of our young film practitioners have studied at the institute, the future of which could be severely compromised by the reduction of incentives.

Hard times

To underscore the urgency of the situation, Mowelfund's Board of Trustees has suspended all honoraria, and the group's staff has been reduced. Now that there's less money available, it's hard times all around!

The hope, of course, is that the order for Mowelfund's reduced incentive be rescinded, so that the welfare group can continue to serve needy movie workers well. Let logic and service, not politics and oneupmanship, prevail.

Toronto offers fair but . . .

From page C1

Painter's eye

Director Julie Taymor, who oversaw the Broadway version of "The Lion King," approaches her film biography with a painter's eye, creating a visual feast that nicely complements Kahlo's vibrant artistic style.

"City Of God." A blistering portrait of boys with guns. Brazilian director Fernando Meirelles presents a frighteningly energetic glimpse of life among Rio de Janeiro youths caught up in gang violence and drug peddling. The film spins parallel stories of boys who take opposite paths, one reveling in power as Rio's most merciless crime lord, the other aspiring to a life of art and productivity as a photographer.

"Max." Portrait of the artist Hitler as a young man. In 1918 Munich, a Jewish art dealer (John Cusack) befriends aspiring painter Adolf Hitler (Noah Taylor), trying to impart joy and artistic devotion to the disillusioned war vet and counter the young man's vile forays into hate-mongering. Writer-director Menno Meyjes creates a passionate dialectic that's frightening to watch for the human flourishes the future dictator reflects.

"Flower & Garnet." A starkly beautiful narrative of a lonely boy (Colin Roberts, possessed of achingly mournful eyes), his older sister and mother figure (Jane McGregor), and their father (Callum Keith Rennie), an emotional ruin since his wife died in childbirth. In his feature-film debut, Canadian director Keith Behrman caresses this unhappy trio, and with melancholy, humor and a few jolting twists, eases them back toward a conception of family.

"Talk To Her." Pedro Almodovar ("All About My Mother") tells a tender tale of friendship between two men who are victims of unrequited romance for a singular reason: One loves a lady dancer in a coma, the other loves a female bullfighter in a coma.

Desire

The men talk to their loves, they talk to each other, and Almodovar sketches a sad, wryly funny rendering of desire, devotion, intimacy and the utter lack of rules governing attraction.

PFEIFFER. Stars in "White Oleander."

"Auto Focus." Director Paul Schrader ("Affliction") examines the seamy side of the sitcom world with his portrait of "Hogan's Heroes" star Bob Crane, a sex addict murdered in a motel room in 1978 amid videos and photos of his carnal relations. Greg Kinnear does a perversely chipper take on Crane, while Willem Dafoe co-stars creepily as his home-porn buddy who was implicated but never convicted in the slaying.

"Bubba Ho-Tep." Yes, it's another horror comedy about old fogey Elvis Presley (Bruce Campbell) battling a bloodthirsty Egyptian mummy in a seedy retirement home with help from a man who thinks he's JFK (Ossie Davis). Director Don Coscarelli delivers a goofy, giddy piece of camp that should live on in cult-video sections as long as there's still Elvis sightings. Thank you, Don, Bruce and Ossie. Thank you very much. *AP*

'Whale Rider' wins Toronto film festival's People's Choice award

TORONTO—The New Zealand film "Whale Rider" about a native Maori girl trying to find her place in her patriarchal tribe won the People's Choice award Sunday, beating out more than 300 films screened at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Cachet

The award may not have the cachet of Cannes' Palme d'Or, but recent award winners, like "Amelie," "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and "American Beauty" have gone on to box-office success in North America or to Oscar nominations.

"Whale Rider," which received standing ovations at the sold-out public screenings, is second-time film director Niki Caro's screen adaptation of Maori writer Witi Ihimaera's legendary tale of Paikea, a Maori ancestor who escaped death by riding the back of a whale.

Newcomer Keisha Castle-Hughes plays Pai

the only surviving twin of a Maori man who is determined to bestow the name on his first child despite her being female.

The film, which made its world premiere here, depicts her struggles to find a place among the Whangara people and her grandfather's determination to stop her from trying to learn traditionally male customs.

Competitive environment

Up until this year, the 10-day festival only handed out the People's Choice award and three prizes to Canadian filmmakers, avoiding the competitive environment of Cannes and Venice.

This year, a new Visions award for an innovative film was announced. The award, carrying a C$20,000 ($13,000) purse from the Independent Film Channel Canada, went to filmmaker Alexandr Sokurov for his film "Russian Ark." The film moves through Russia's St. Petersburg Hermitage museum in a single camera shot lasting 96 minutes. *AFP*

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Janno Gibbs is a soulful performer

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

GIBBS. Amazing ease and confidence.

JANNO Gibbs usually injects deadpan humor into his concerts. But during his "Crossover Presents" concert at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Manila, he decided to stick to singing and left the jokes and punchlines to Mitch Valdes.

Mitch kept the crowd in stitches as she mimicked newscasters from CNN, BBC, Indian MTV and Japan news reports. She also impersonated Filipino performers auditioning for gigs. But what brought the house down was her version of "You Know You're A Filipino When. . ." and she dramatized the funny and unique mannerisms of Pinoys.

Janno can sing R&B and pop tunes with amazing ease. He captivated his audience with his version of "The Biggest Part of Me." Then he did a jazzy tune, "Haven't We Met" with equal confidence.

Janno can put his own stamp on cover songs like "Windmills of Your Mind" (Sting); "Whenever, Wherever, Whatever" and "I'd Rather (Luther Vandross).

The applause kept coming as he impersonated celebrities like Frank Sinatra, Fernando Poe Jr., Martin Nievera, Michael Jackson, Tom Jones, Elvis Presley, Eddie Peregrina, Ricky Martin, Britney Spears, Jessa Zaragosa, Aiza Seguerra, Jaya, Regine Velasquez, Lani Misalucha, Gary Valenciano and Ogie Alcasid.

Listening to Gil Alon

Israeli actor Gil Alon spoke to a select group recently about the current state of art and theater in Israel, and he also delved into the basic core of Zen Buddhism in relation to being an artist.

He has been traveling for almost a year now, on what he calls "a personal journey," giving acting workshops and trying to get deeper into the study of Zen philosophy.

Incidentally, the Israeli Film Festival is ongoing until Sept. 25 and this year, the list of films to be exhibited seems promising. We are interested in a film titled "Late Marriage." (which we learned is experiencing rough sailing with the MTRCB).

It's the story of a couple in search of a bride for their almost middle-aged son (following the Georgian tradition). The son falls madly in love with a single mother and when his parents find out about his secret romance, the film's plot begins to unfold.

Star Records launching on 'SOP'

It was rather odd that Star Records opted to launch Jolina Magdangal's latest CD, "Jolina Sings the Masters," on unfamiliar grounds—on Channel 7's Sunday show "SOP." It was an unprecedented event in the competition between the two rival networks, GMA-7 and ABS-CBN.

Well, maybe they had no choice, because Magdangal is now with a new network and she had to properly launch her swan-song album with the old ties she made.

It's kinda funny how things work out—or don't—in this business. We could imagine how uncomfortable the executives of Star Records felt and how embarrassing it was for them to see that, in the end, stars rule the industry.

Farine Lactee Nestlé, 1895

Nestlé Cerelac, 1977

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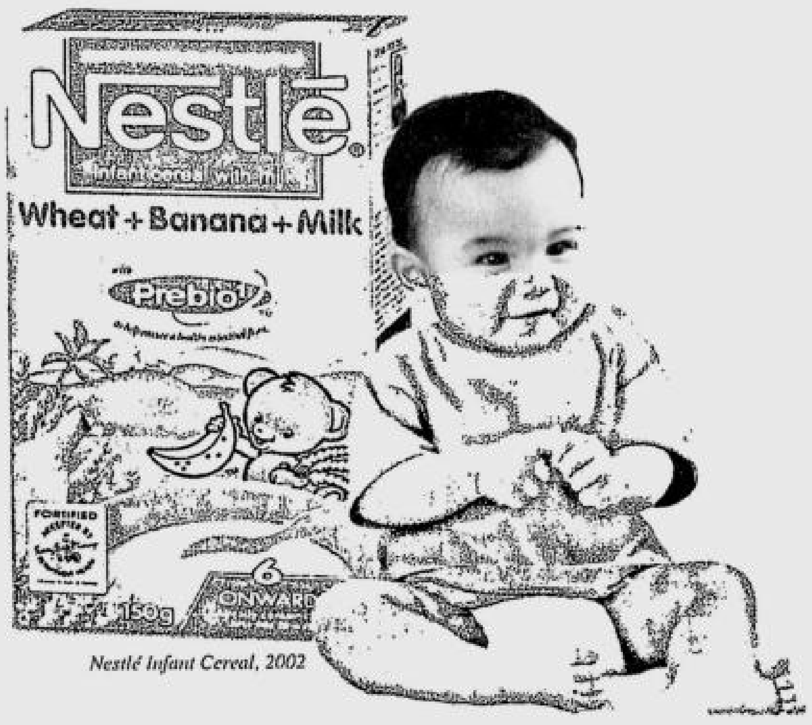

Nestlé Infant Cereal, 2002

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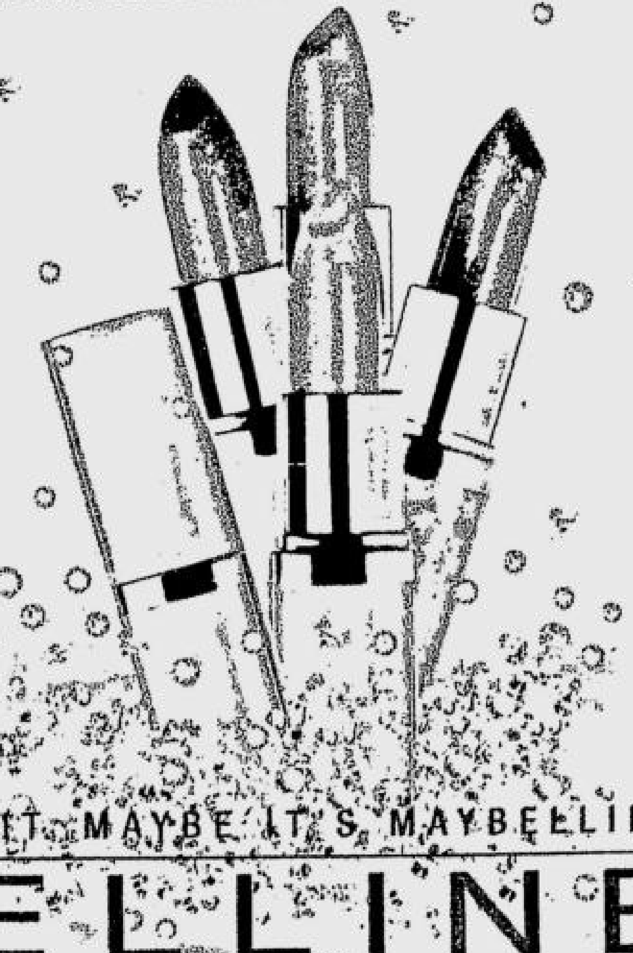
Josie Maran

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SATUR

Garbo musical turns spotlight on mystery woman

By Anna Peltola

GARBO. Enigmatic screen goddess.

STOCKHOLM—What would Greta Garbo, Hollywood's mystery woman who "wanted to be alone," think of an entire musical telling the story of her life in flashy Broadway style?

"Garbo The Musical" opened in Stockholm, in Garbo's native Sweden, on Sept. 18, and the international team that has put the show together hopes it will find audiences on Broadway, in London and other foreign centers.

Saga

Hunger for new musicals is huge, and the producers expect the saga of the enigmatic screen goddess who spent more of her life in seclusion than making films will lure people decades after Garbo's career ended.

"It's this mystery and glory around her that appeals to people around the world," said producer Mikael Hellqvist.

Garbo, born Greta Gustafson in Stockholm in 1905, moved to Hollywood at the age of 20 and rose to instant recognition, becoming one of the greatest screen actresses of the 1930s and early '40s.

Icy beauty

The icy beauty made 10 silent and 14 sound films, including "Anna Karenina" and "Ninotchka." In the 1932 movie "Grand Hotel," she uttered her famous line "I want to be alone"—a comment which later came to symbolize her attitude to the outside world, especially the press.

Alone Garbo stunned Hollywood in 1941 when she turned her back on the film business at the height of her career and moved to New York where she lived a solitary existence for almost 50 years.

Garbo loved acting but shunned media attention. After her retirement she never went out without wearing dark glasses, never wrote an autobiography and gave only a handful of interviews.

"She wanted to do her work, but she wasn't hungry for the attention she got," said Gunilla Backman, who stars as Garbo in the musical. "I think that's quite interesting today when everybody wants to be famous." Garbo died in 1990, with family members at her bedside. Her ashes were buried in Sweden in 1999 after a nine-year tussle about the most suitable resting place for the actress who said in her last years that she missed her native country.

The musical, which tracks Garbo's life from her modest youth through the glamorous Hollywood years to the late 1980s in New York, is a mixture of musical styles ranging from swing and ragtime variations to more contemporary rock.

Score

Michael Reed, who has composed the score with Jim Steinman—known also for the text of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Whistle Down the Wind"—said they had tried to fill it with as much color as possible.

"We tried to find the spirit of the woman who was an extremely private person," he said. "Things seemed to happen to her. She was swept along, met all these people in Hollywood, and became really disillusioned with it." Producer Hellqvist said he hoped "Garbo" would run in Stockholm for a year and then open in the southern Swedish cities of Gothenburg and Malmo.

He said the musical could move abroad in spring 2004, joining a series of successful Swedish music exports.

"Everybody is interested in new musicals," Hellqvist said. "Now there are mostly reproductions of old musicals, but this one is brand new." Backman said she would be thrilled to star as Garbo even outside Sweden.

To study her role, she has read intensively about Garbo and talked to her relatives.

Deeply touched

"I was deeply touched by her," Backman said. "She was so young when she came to Hollywood, and she became famous very quickly." Garbo, who never won an Academy Award during her acting career despite nominations for four films, was one of the first women to go on strike for better pay and play the roles she really wanted.

She was awarded a special Oscar "for her unforgettable screen performances" in 1954, but did not attend the ceremony. *Reuters*

ELEGANT romance with John Gilbert in "Flesh and The Devil."

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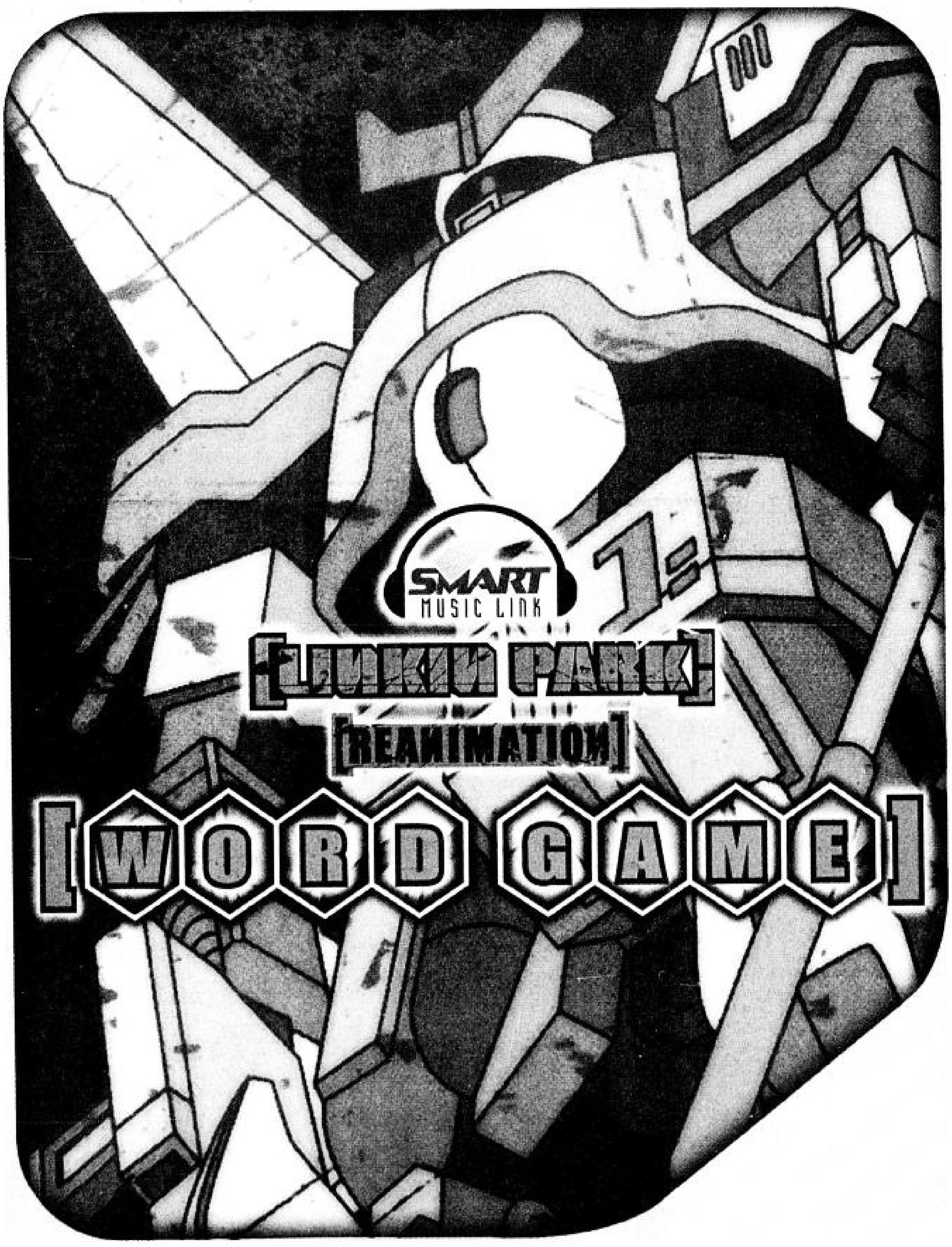

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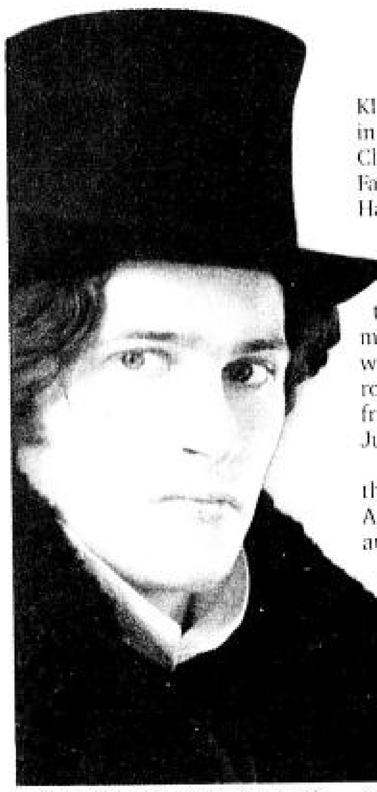
New actor clinches plum role



BEW AS ANDERSEN. Stunned when he got the lead role despite his lack of experience.

KIERAN Bew plays the title role in the new TV mini-series, "Hans Christian Andersen: My Life as a Fairy Tale," unreeling on the Hallmark Channel on Sept. 22

Bew is not just goodlooking, but gifted and classically-trained as well. He studied at the prestigious London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, where he played a wide range of roles in Shakespearean plays, from Mercutio in "Romeo and Juliet" to Brutus in "Coriolanus."

He was stunned when he got the plum role of Hans Christian Andersen, after one of his first auditions. "I thought they would offer it to somebody with more experience. It was like a fairytale ending when they told me the role was mine!," the young actor gushes.

The Hallmark biopic charts Andersen's life from boyhood to maturity. It isn't an exact biography because it takes artistic liberties in presenting the writer's life in a dreamlike style, following the flow of the tales he so imaginatively told.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Part 1 of the mini-series will be telecast on Sept. 22, while Part 2 will be shown on Sept. 23.

Another Hallmark special is "Stranded," an adaptation of "Swiss Family Robinson," Part 1 of which is being shown on Sept. 21, followed by Part 2 on Sept. 22.

Feedback

From Loi Landicho of Makati City: "Months ago, viewers were glued to their TV screens, outdoing one another in answering the questions asked on 'The Weakest Link.' The show then was the epitome of a near-perfect 'info-tainment' program. You learned while being entertained at the same time.

"Of late, however, what used to be an educational program seems to have been reduced to an exhibition of mediocrity. Viewers are taking note of the contestants' inane answers to the rather easy questions. Worse, we have to contend with the new host's below-par performance.

"If it's any consolation, 'TWL' has become a gag show of sorts. And, with a populace trying to survive the economic consequences of our leaders' ineptitude, watching a gag show is the next best thing to do."

'MTV Blast'

MTV and Thames International Business School recently celebrated the culmination of the School's Student Entrepreneurs' Fair with a concert and dance party, "MTV Blast," at Zillion at Robinsons Galleria.

Featured were top R and B bands K-2417 and Seven Shots of Wisdom, and DJ Kristyles, whose inspired spinning kept the crowd dancing all night long.

MONTERO. At MTV concert and dance party.

SHEEN. Nominated for an Emmy as Best Actor.

Spotted were Thames director Joel Santos, MTV's Anne Matoto, KC Montero, Rod Nepomuceno and Bong Paderna, plus Uriah Van der Boss, and Thames' Suzanne King and Rahul Patel.

MTV was named Broadcaster of the Year at the 2001 Asian Television Awards, and is the top music channel, according to AMI-PAX-2000.

The Emmys on Studio 23

Studio 23 will air the 54th annual Emmy Awards live via satellite at 8 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 23. The show will be replayed at 6 p.m. A number of shows aired on Studio 23 have been nominated for Emmys.•

For instance, "The West Wing" is up for Outstanding Drama Series. Its stars, Martin Sheen and Alison Janney, are also competing in the Best Actor and Actress categories.

All told, US shows being telecast on Studio 23 are up for an impressive 72 nominations.

Ice Cube's 'Barbershop' tops US box office

By Dean Goodman

LOS ANGELES—"Barbershop," an urban comedy starring rapper Ice Cube, brushed aside its rivals to grab the No. 1 chair at the North American box office in its first weekend, according to studio estimates issued on Sunday.

Low-budget film

The low-budget film grossed $21 million for the three days beginning Sept. 13, almost doubling the $11 million haul of perennial bridesmaid "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," which spent its third weekend at No. 2 and finally passed $100 million.

The Robin Williams drama "One Hour Photo" jumped 10 places to No. 3 with $7.7 million after expanding nationally in its fourth weekend of release. "Stealing Harvard," a comedy starring Tom Green, was the only other new entry in the top 10, premiering at No. 4 with $6.3 million.

Last week's top movie, the teen thriller "Swimfan," fell to No. 5 with $6.1 million.

If estimates hold when final data are released on Monday, "Barbershop" will rank as the third best September opener ever, after "Rush Hour" ($33 million), "Double Jeopardy" ($23.2 million) and ahead of "Remember the Titans" ($20.9 million).

Strong performances

The strong performances helped the box office end an eight-week losing streak, with the total for the top 12 films up 38 percent over the year-ago weekend to $72 million, according to tracking firm Exhibitor Relations.

"Barbershop" stars Ice Cube (his real name is O'Shea Jackson) as the owner of an inner-city Chicago barbershop that serves as a social focus point for the neighborhood. After he hands it over to a loan shark to pay off his debts, he realizes its value to the community, and tries to get it back.

The ensemble film also stars comedian Cedric the Entertainer, whose loquacious character provides some politically incorrect political commentary, and rapper Eve. It was released by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc., which has released a string of flops this year, including "Windtalkers," "Hart's War" and "Rollerball." MGM marketing president Peter Adee said about 70 percent of the audience for "Barbershop" was black, with most viewers aged under 35. He hoped positive word-of-mouth would help the film cross over to other demographics. *Reuters*

Dream come true

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

VANCOUVER, Canada—This country has one of the most beautiful sceneries in the world. It is a paradise for the lover of nature and family outings. The beach is 30 minutes away, and so are the mountains. There are roller blading and ice skating rinks where people like me can make fools of themselves.

Outdoor sportsman

For the outdoor sportsman, British Colombia has one of the best hunting grounds. Here, you will find Black and Grizzly bears, moose, elk, wild boar, mountain lions, mountain goats, etc. The hunting is strictly government-regulated.

It is home to some of the best fishing all over. We also enjoyed crabbing.

Fishing is an exciting sport. Here, you can go salmon or trout fishing.

Four huge ponds

My family and I drove to Abbotsford, which is 45 minutes from North Vancouver, to a place with four huge ponds stocked with freshwater rainbow trout. Each of us was supplied with a pole, line and bait, and we went fishing, Simple, clean family fun.

This, to me, is a dream come true. Everyone had a great time. My wife Tessa came home with the second largest fish. Our good friend Dodi Villareal caught the biggest at 21 inches. Almost everyone caught at least two. All the fish are measured and you pay a very reasonable price for the catch. Many dishes have used the trout we caught—deep-fried, steamed, Chinese, French, etc!

On our way home, we passed by a small dairy that made its own ice cream, which was fantastic. Their vanilla and bitter sweet chocolate were out of this world.

Happy eating!

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In the same study, polyphenol-rich grapes helped improve blood flow, heart-pumping capacity and reduced the area of tissue death after a heart attack.

What's more, a second compound in grapes called ***pterostilbene*** (terro-STILL-bien) has been found to have cancer-preventing properties!

Agricultural Research Service (USA) research chemist Agnes Rimando at Oxford, Mississippi discovered that pterostilbene possesses similar chemoprotective qualities as that of resveratrol, another compound found in grapes. However, unlike resveratrol, this newly discovered compound is already known to possess anti-diabetic properties, and shows strong inhibitory activity against breast cancer cell lines.

With all these heartwarming news about the healthy benefits of California Grapes, treat yourself to a fresh bunch everyday--whether as an ingredient in your favorite dish or as a refreshingly sweet snack!

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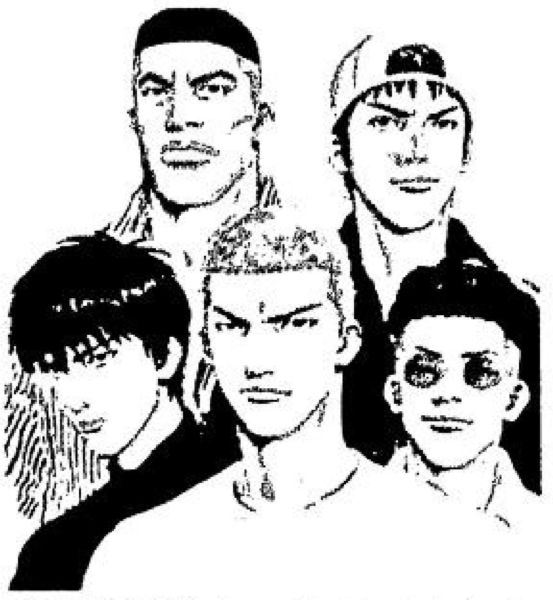
California Grapes
The Natural Healthy Snack

Why do so many viewers watch 'Slam Dunk'?

By Leia Torre

JAPANESE animé shows have long been popular in the Philippines. So far, however, "Slam Dunk," the latest animé rage, is the only show that deals with sports. It has a very realistic format, and the fact that it is about basketball has ensured its success in our basketball-mad country. In fact, the combination of animé and basketball may be the main factor responsible for the success of the show.



"SLUM DUNK." Winning combination of animé and basketball.

Lead character

Hanamichi Sakuragi is the lead character of the series. He's quite conceited, and thinks of himself as a genius. He meets a girl, Akagi Haruko, and joins the school's basketball team to impress her, even if he knows nothing about basketball. The story gets interesting when he meets a rival, Rukawa Kaede.

Not only does he have to contend with Rukawa's expertise on the court, but he also has to see his dream girl moon over the guy.

The other main characters are Akagi Takenori, who is Haruko's older brother and is also the team captain; Miyagi Ryota, who is in love with Ayako the team manager; and Mitsui Hisashi, an erstwhile MVP (Most Valuable Player) who hasn't played any basketball for two years. Their goal is to make their school's basketball team the No. 1 team in Japan.

Why do local viewers watch the show? Let's hear from some of them.

All about basketball

"*Dati ko pang pinapanood ang* 'Slam Dunk' sa Channel 5, *pero laging rerun so nagsawa ako sa kakanood.* Now I want to watch it until the end of the series. It's very nice to watch because it shows you everything that an amateur in basketball should learn. *Lahat na' yata ng kapalpakan ay nangyari na kay* Sakuragi, *the main character of the show.*

"There's also a portion of the show with Dr. T, where you can learn the different techniques and terminologies used in relation to the game. Watching the show serves as a learning experience, aside from being an enjoyable one."—**Leslie Estreller, 23.**

Good writer

"Watching 'Slam Dunk' relaxes me after a long and tiring day. I first watched the show when I was still in elementary. I like everything about it. The creator, who is now deceased, was a very good writer. He could make us feel the characters' emotions. He knew when to be serious and when to be funny.

"One of the episodes I particularly liked was the Shohoku vs. Kainan game, even though Shohoku lost. This made the viewers see that protagonists are not invulnerable. Unlike other animé stories, 'Slam Dunk' is not about heroic good guys saving the world. As the title states, it's all about basketball. And since I know next-to-nothing about basketball, watching the show is very educational for me. I've learned a lot about the sport.

"I only wish that the people responsible for the show will see to it that Shohoku gets all the way to the national competitions, because I've heard that they are planning to end the series after the inter-high competition. *Bitin!"—Karen Sy, 18.*

Details

"I continue to watch the show *kasi gusto kong malaman yung mga* details about each character, and the things they have to do *para makaabot ang* team *nila* (Shohoku) *sa* national competition. Of course, I also follow each character's personal life, like the love triangle that exists between Rukawa, Haruko, and Sakuragi (who's the main character of the show).

"Usually, *sina* Rukawa *at* Sakuragi *yung* usually *napapansin kasi lagi silang nag-aaway. Pero mapapansin din ang mga* members *ng* other teams, *gaya ni* Sendoh. Admirable *din ang* personality *niya dahil di siya kasing-yabang nina* Sakuragi at Rukawa.

"*Kakaiba talaga ang* 'Slam Dunk' *dahil ang mga* characters *na pinapakita nito ay parang totoong tao.* Realistic *din ang* plotline, *kasi hindi palaging nananalo ang* Shohoku.—*Dolly Pearl Tiburcio, 18.*

Different

"Once I started watching the show, I was hooked. It's different from the other shows because it's about basketball.

"I appreciate what the show is trying to do, which is to teach its audience about basketball. Almost everything an aspiring basketball player needs to know is touched on in the show. The traits essential to success are also discussed, though the characters do not necessarily possess them all. In fact, they're prone to be conceited about their athletic prowess, especially Sakuragi, who's the main character.

"This only goes to show that the creator of 'Slam Dunk' was determined to show the players as they really are, and not as the demi-gods they are oftentimes purported to be. I find that this show's being realistic is a refreshing change from other animé shows, which thrive on magic and surrealism."—*Carlo Abella, 25.*

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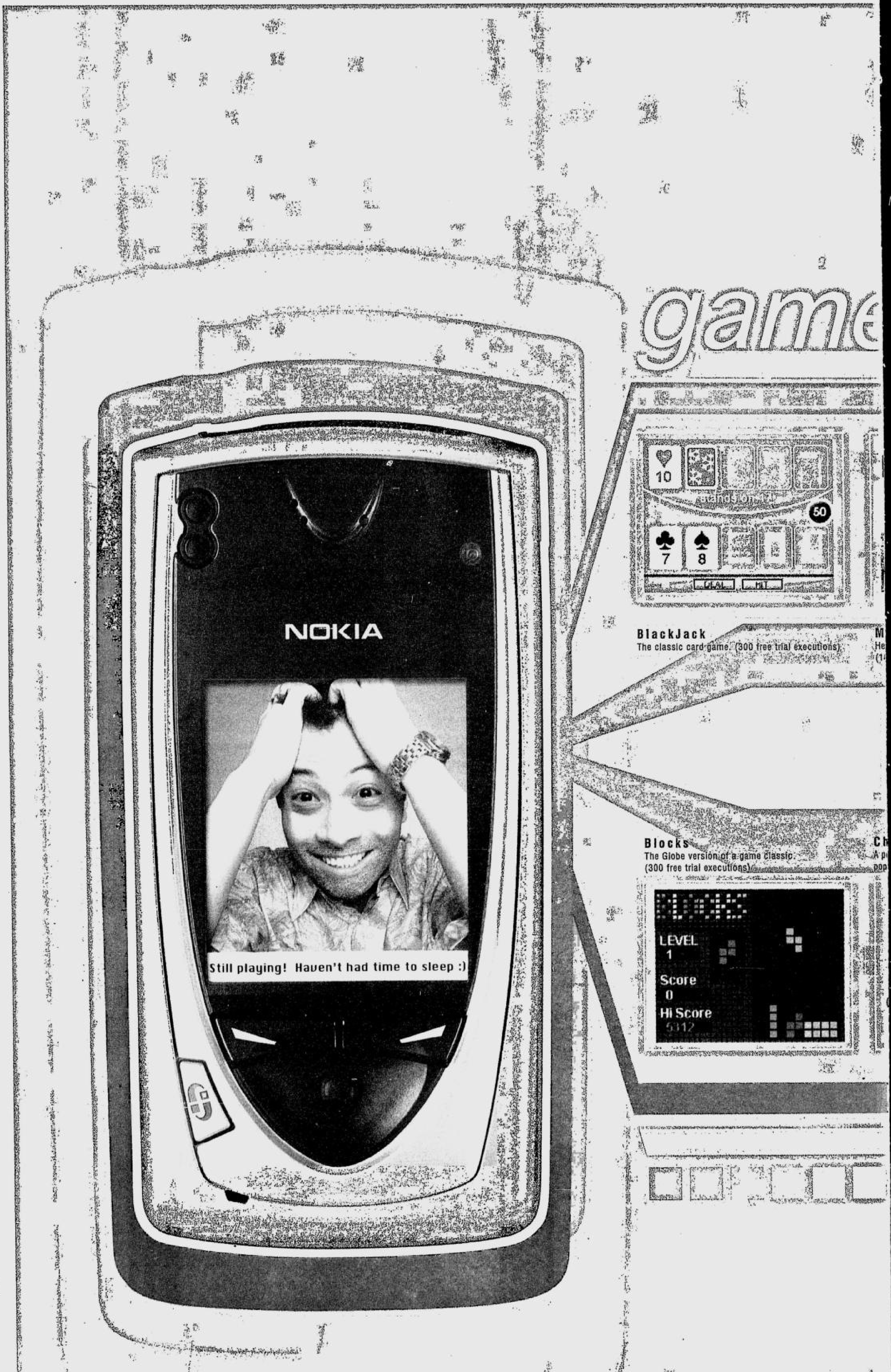
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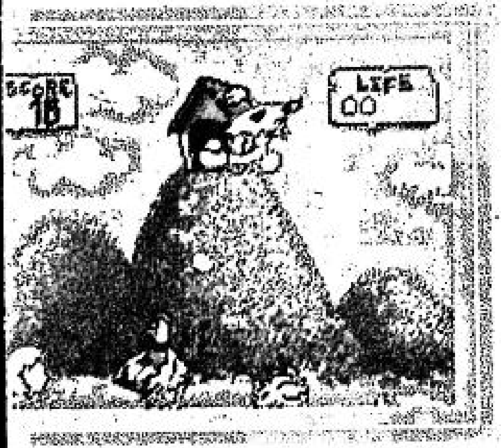
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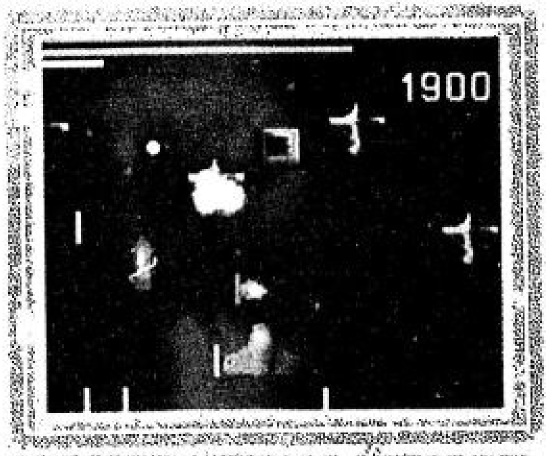

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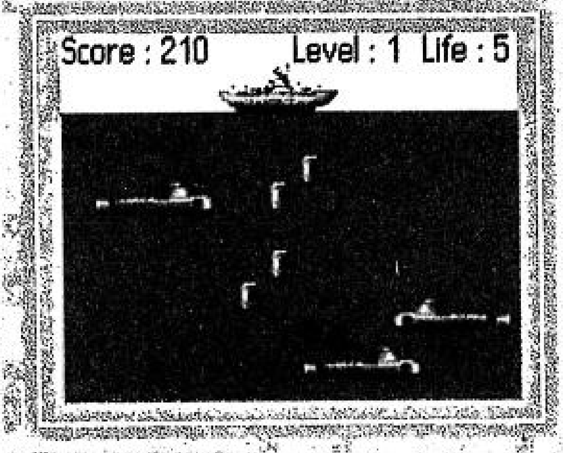
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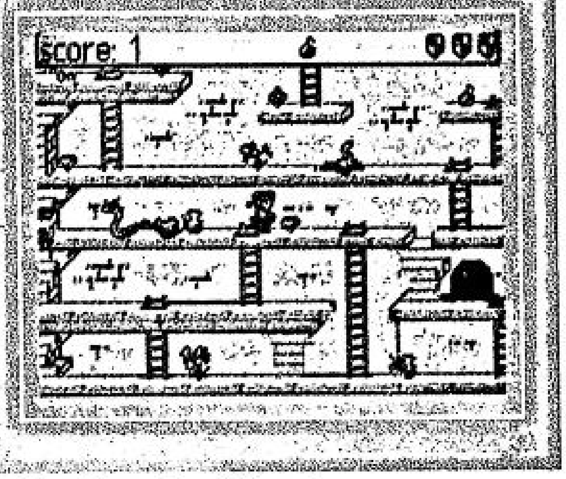

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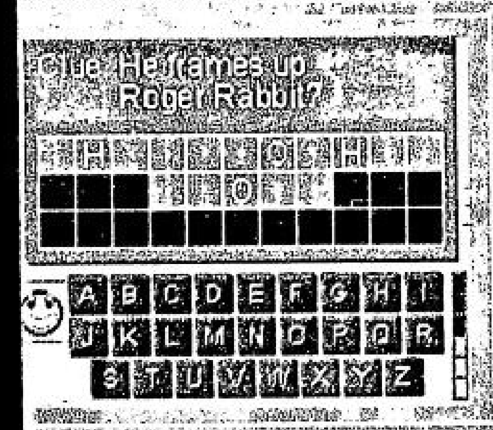
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S T U V W X Y Z

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P 5,000
50:50
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B. Zeus
C. Hades
D. Neptune

Word Mill
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HI-SCORE
SCORE
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RICE
CRAVE
LIVER
VEIL
LIVE

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HANDYPHONE

Cine Europa festival unreels at Shangri-La Plaza's Cinema 1

By Nestor U. Torre

THE DELEGATION of the European Commission and the Embassies of the European Union member states, in cooperation with Shangri-La Plaza Mall, is screening 10 European films in the Cine Europe 5 festival at the mall's Cinema 1, until Sept. 29.

Screenings

Most of the movies will continue on to Cebu City's Ayala Center, where screenings will take place from Oct. 2 to 4. Admission is free.

Cine Europa aims to bring greater understanding of the EU through cultural exposure and interaction. Films on view this year:

From Austria, "Born in Absurdistan." In a hospital in Vienna, the newborn babies of an Austrian couple and a Turkish family of immigrant workers get mixed up and go home with the wrong parents. The Turkish family is deported, so the Austrian couple go to Turkey in order to bring their child back.

Quiet neighborhood

From Belgium, "My Life in Pink." A little boy dreams of being a little girl. This is the story of a quiet neighborhood finding out about difference, fear and denial. —An optimistic tale of disillusionment!

From Finland, "Kites Over Helsinki." Riku has lost his big brother in a violent car crash, and starts a chaotic trip triggered by a bizarre conversation with his dead sibling.

From France, "And Now... Ladies and Gentlemen." This film is directed by Claude Lelouch and topbills Jeremy Irons. A woman who has let life slip by and a man who scoffs at death are bound to meet, particularly when they share the same obsession of forgetting the past.

Head chef

From Germany, "Mostly Martha." A head chef in an upscale restaurant relies on her culinary skill as her primary means of communication. When her sister dies, the chef has to take care of her eight-year-old niece, who proves as resolute and singleminded as her aunt.

From the Netherlands, "The Discovery of Heaven," by Jeroen Krabbe, with Stephen Fry and Diana Quick. God is disappointed in the human race and wants his stone tablets back. An angel manipulates some people on earth to get the job done, but humans have a will of their own.

Troubled girl

From Portugal, "Love and Tiny Toes," by Luis Filipe Rocha. In Macao in the year 1900, a troubled girl faces the arrogant son of a wealthy family. With Joachim de Almeida, Ana Torent and Jean-Pierre Cassel.

From Spain, "The Red Squirrel." A suicidal man witnesses a motorcycle accident. When he goes to help the driver, he finds himself looking into the brown eyes of a girl who has lost her memory. To take care of her, he pretends to be her boyfriend.

From Sweden, "Such Is Life." A bar piano player is less than two weeks away from her 30th birthday, and is pressured to achieve her dreams—to play in a prestigious bar *and* to get married. She's in a panic, as are (for different reasons) her mother, father, her manager, the man she lives with, and an industrialist.

Unhappy lives

From the United Kingdom, "Crush." Three longtime friends meet every Monday to brighten their unhappy lives. Things turn sour when one of them get involved with a younger man-and is no longer unhappy.

ANDIE McDowell stars in "Crush," from the United Kingdom.

This festival is a good opportunity for film buffs to catch up with European Cinema, as well as with representative movies from 10 countries. Don't pass it up! Admission is free.

Screening schedule: Sept 20 at 8:30 p.m., "And Now... Ladies and Gentlemen."

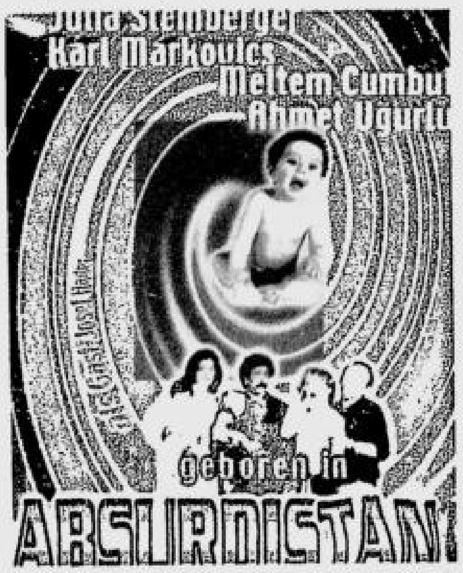
Sept. 21 at 3 p.m., "Born in Absurdistan." 5:30 p.m., "Kites Over Helsinki." 8:30 p.m., "Mostly Martha."

Sept. 22 at 3 p.m., "My Life in Pink." 5:30 p.m., "And Now... Ladies and Gentlemen." 8:30 p.m., "Crush."

'Kites Over Helsinki'

Sept. 23 at 3 p.m., "Kites Over Helsinki." 5:30 p.m., "Mostly Martha." 8:30 p.m., "Love and Tiny Toes."

Sept. 24 at 3 p.m., "And Now... Ladies and gentlemen." 5:30 p.m., "Born in Absurdistan." 8:30 p.m., "The Red Squirrel."



"BORN in Absurdistan" (Austria) is directed by Houchang Allahyari.

Sept. 25 at 3 p.m., "Mostly Martha." 5:30 p.m., "Love and Tiny Toes." 8:30 p.m., "Such Is Life."

Sept. 26 at 3 p.m., "The Discovery of Heaven." 5:30 p.m., "The Red Squirrel." 8:30 p.m., "Born in Absurdistan."

Sept. 27 at 3 p.m., "Love and Tiny Toes." 5:30 p.m., "Such Is Life." 8:30 p.m., "The Discovery of Heaven."

Sept. 28 at 3 p.m., "The Red Squirrel." 5:30 p.m., "Crush." 8:30 p.m., "My Life in Pink."

Sept. 29 at 3 p.m., "Such Is Life." 5:30 p.m., "The Discovery of Heaven." 8:30 p.m., "Kites Over Helsinki."

The right to dream

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

I heard it said once that dreams were just for kids. That can't be right, can it? Because, most certainly, dreams enrich life regardless of a person's age. A nation without dreams is a nation without hope. And, without hope, what would make life worth living?

Indeed, how impoverished life would be without dreams. Even the poorest of the poor have dreams—which means they aren't really poor. For a man is never, ever poor until he surrenders his right to dream.

Obsessed

Why am I talking to you about dreams, Clara? Well, it must be because, ever since I had that scare in June, I've gotten more and more obsessed with your future. Like, how do we ensure its success? What should we do for you to get there the fastest and easiest way? Where must you start and what must you bring on your journey towards it?

I confess to a little selfishness in this, my dear child. Someone once said that the success of motherhood is not found in a well-filled refrigerator, or a hot meal, or a beautiful garden. The success of motherhood is hidden in the smiles of the children whose dreams have come true. And that has been my own dream since the day you were born, my dearest Clara—to see you smile as your dreams come true.

Direct connection

One thing I've found out about dreams is that they have a direct connection with destiny. But you must dream the right dreams. Dreams born out of desires that are aligned with God's design for you from the beginning of time shall lead you to your destiny. And this, Clara, is the formula for happiness!

There have been many people who chased after dreams that were of the world and not of the Lord. They lived to see the folly of their ways. For they never got to reap the fullness of their potential for real joy. I should know, my dear Clara. I used to be one of them.

Indeed, there was a time in my life when my dreams centered on wealth and fame. I immersed myself in the false comfort and solace that they gave me. I thought they would last forever—but they did not. It was all illusory. Why? Because I did not connect with God.

Triumphs

I hardly visited Him in His home. I rarely consulted Him about anything. I invited Him once in a while to grace the joyous occasions that adorned the triumphs of my show biz life—but I'd shut Him out again.

I had many priest-friends. Every milestone in my life I made sure to mark with the celebration of the mass. And almost every new, expensive thing I acquired I brought to a priest to bless. But it was more a ritual than a genuine linking with the Lord. A priest was just a necessary prop in the parties I threw, and not the channel of God's grace that, I now know, he really is.

Of course, you know Fr. Jerry Orbos, the SVD priest your Lolo Nich was very fond of. He is a dear family friend. His greeting to me always is: "Mama Mary loves you!" and that never fails to send poignant feelings of nostalgia and yearning for things of the past that have remained unspoilt but have somehow slipped from my hands without my noticing.

I've always felt Fr. Jerry's desire to connect with me on some deeply personal level, but I've managed to just maintain a "safe" friendship with him. I guess, I nurtured this fear inside that the lifestyle I lived wasn't really what he was always praying to God for me to have. Actually, it's *sayang*. I'm pretty sure, he'd have brought me to God much earlier—and much closer, too.

Thrill

Guess what, Clara? I recently got reconnected with a childhood friend I haven't seen since high school graduation. It was a thrill—especially because I was overjoyed to find her a veritable treasure trove of divinely inspired wisdom.

As we tried to re-knot the severed threads of our lives, our conversation turned to God. She asked me, "How well do you know me, Lourdes? You have affection for me, you even consider me a friend. But then, what we have can hardly be called a friendship.

"Because you don't know anything about me anymore. In fact, you didn't really care, did you? Or you would have exerted the effort to seek me out. Because we don't communicate, you don't talk to me about the things that happen to you. You don't share your secrets. You don't consult me about the choices and decisions you make. You don't cry on my shoulder. You don't allow me to bask in the glory of your victories."

Then, she gazed into my eyes like she was looking for something important there. "It's the same thing with God," she quietly said.

Wrong turn

It suddenly made a lot of sense to me. A few summers ago, I wondered why my life was in shambles—What had I done wrong? Where did I take the wrong turn? How did I end up at the opposite end of the destiny I have doggedly journeyed to reach all this time? As the crackling bonfire that my life had become disturbed the stillness in my soul, I dared ask why my dreams suddenly became fiery ashes that danced and died in the wind.

But I didn't stop to ponder where God was in all this, what role I had allowed Him to play in my life. I insisted on what I wanted and literally moved heaven and earth to touch my dreams—only to discover they were not there anymore for me to grasp.

It's really by sheer grace of God that I'm now finally able to retrace my steps back to the right road to God—and, therefore, to happiness. I'm not yet there, but I'm getting there somehow. It's painful, sometimes. But, I know that I'll soon come face to face with my dreams and my destiny.

Clara, I'm very glad that you already have a functioning relationship with God. Never lose that. Never sacrifice it at the altar of worldly comfort and convenience. And never let go of it even when everybody else has already done so in pursuit of his dream. Because God's magnificent plan will eventually unfold, and it will happen only for those who have not lost sight of Him.

My dearest Clara, dream on. Strive to make your dreams come true, and claim your destiny. But dream with God. Strive with Him. Then, the future will surely be yours. Your dreams will come true.

And you will smile.

For comments, insights, questions and suggestions email badids2000@yahoo.com

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YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM SEPT. 21 - SEPT. 27

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	31
[illegible]	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Smart Ka Na Ba? 7:30 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Mary d' Potter 9:30 Klasmeyts 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 Various Sports Special 7:30 Road to Busan 8:00 Various Sports Special 9:00 Fox News 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night 11:30 Star Trek Voyager	5:30 Dragon Ball Z 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster *Hukom .45* 11:00 Master Showman	5:00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse	7:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Kagat ng Dilim	5:30 Bewitched 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Uncut 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *LA Law* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Celebrity Profile
[illegible]	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	7:30 Road to Busan 8:00 The Working President (Replay) 9:00 Fox News 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 K! 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Startrek Generations* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Come Together: A Night of John Lennon's Words and Music*	8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva's Hot Hits	6:00 Travel Time 7:00 Exposed 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The Street 10:30 Twilight Zone	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Original Special 8:00 Rank TV's *Guilty Pleasures* 9:00 Revealed W/ Jules Asner *Alyssa Milano* 10:00 Movies on E! *Do Not Disturb*
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Bituin 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correspondents	4:00 Fox News 7:30 Road To Busan 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Fashion TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 GMA's Best 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 8:00 Jag 9:00 24 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 Crayon Shin Chan 8:00 Kurochan 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Diwa 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurai X 7:30 News Central Primetime 8:00 Bully 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Live from the red carpet! *2002 Primetime Emmy Awards pre-show (re-broadcast)* 9:30 Live from the red carpet! *2002 Primetime Emmy Awards post-show (re-broadcast)*
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British filmmaker says European cinema is dead

By Krisztina Than

GREENAWAY. "Works of art are never finished, just stopped."

BUDAPEST—Outspoken British film director Peter Greenaway says the traditional European movie is dead, outmoded by new media technology that will do away with classic cinema narrative.

Exhibition

"Cinema is dead, most contemporary cinema is extremely boring," Greenaway said in an interview to coincide with the opening of an exhibition of his paintings and collages.

"I want to support . . . become excited and fascinated by the new post-digital revolution in the media," added Greenaway, a trained artist who veered into movie-making in the 1960s.

The exhibition, at Budapest's new MEO contemporary art gallery until late September, spans more than 30 years of Greenaway's works and is one of the city's prime art attractions this year as it sets out to rival Vienna and Prague as central Europe's leading international art and cultural center.

Welsh-born Greenaway, 60, started out as a painter but switched to cinematography in the 1960s, making his name with offbeat movies such as "The Cook, the Thief, His Wife and Her Lover," as well as "The Draughtsman's Contract" and, more recently, "Prospero's Books" and "The Pillow Book." His back catalogue stretches to some 400 films, as well as several operas and books.

'There will be a very small archival cinema, then the big Disney 360-degree sense-around phenomenon, which will basically be family entertainment . . . and there is the third, and most interesting, area . . . the DVD, post-CD ROM phenomenon'

Most ambitious project

Now, he is shooting his most ambitious project to date.

"The Tulse Luper Suitcases", part of which will be filmed in Budapest later this year, is a grandiose project using state-of-the-art technology and includes a three-part feature film, television series, books, DVDs, CD-ROMs and websites.

The film tells the story of a character called Tulse Luper as he travels the world looking for 92 mysterious suitcases.

Subtitled "the fictive history of uranium", it is also Greenaway's take on the nuclear age, starting with the discovery of uranium in 1928 and ending with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. The atomic number of uranium is 92.

New language of cinema

Greenaway believes sound cinema, like the silent movies that preceded it, is doomed to extinction, killed off by fast advancing technology.

"The European movie is finished, there's nothing of interest any more," Greenaway declared.

"English film has degenerated incredibly, Italians have only cheap, nasty Italian television . . . France is perhaps the last nation with its own indigenous and interesting film community, but that's going downhill." He said cinema had to reinvent itself every few decades as new technology created new media, adding he believed cinema would in future be divided into three camps.

Archival cinema

"There will be a very small archival cinema, then the big Disney 360-degree sense-around phenomenon, which will basically be family entertainment . . . and there is the third, and most interesting, area . . . the DVD, post-CD ROM phenomenon." He said this transformation was unavoidable as technology moved the goalposts and made traditional narration obsolete.

"The basic mode of presentation now is not reading in the classical novel sense, but browsing," he said.

"The idea of no closures, no beginnings, no ends, entry at any point like on a classic CD or DVD. So, the whole process is different. It's not about telling narrative in the old way."

No surprise

No surprise then that in his paintings, drawings and collages, Greenaway also applies a new vocabulary of art, relying heavily on maps, diagrams, grids and numbers.

His works have many links to his movies.

"My greatest aesthetic fascinations have always been the antagonisms, the contradictions and interactions of text and image," Greenaway said.

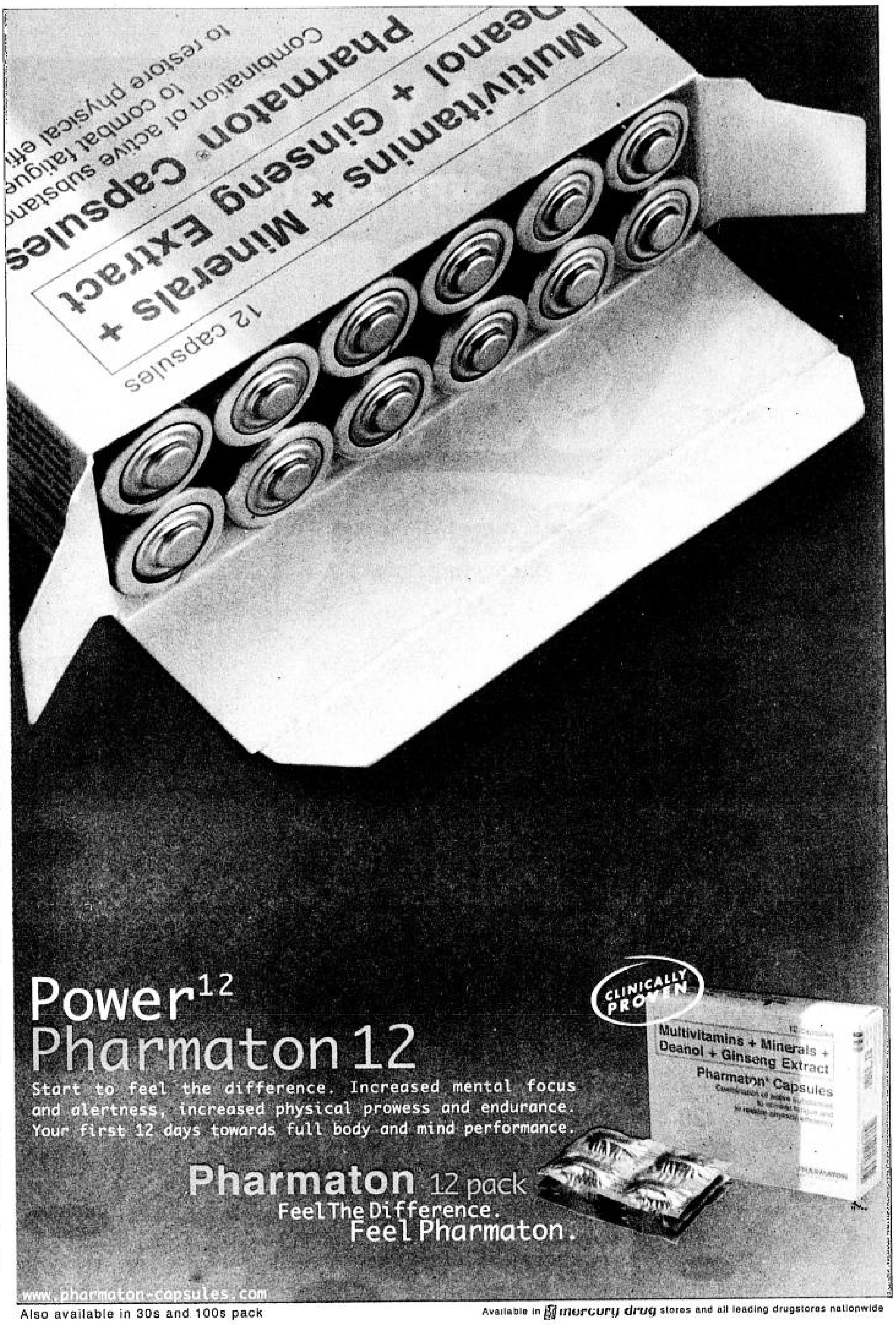
Curator

Paul Melia, curator of the Budapest exhibition, says Greenaway has an "analytical" approach to landscape painting, citing the 1982 film "The Draughtsman's Contract" as an example.

In this film the main character, an artist, uses a grid to organize his drawings, just like Greenaway.

For the British director, painting is a more complex medium than traditional sound cinema as it offers the artist a wider scale of techniques. One of his paintings, dating from 1972, is even entitled "If Only Film Could Do The Same." Many of Greenaway's paintings and drawings on display leave the viewer wondering whether they have actually been completed.

As Greenaway once put it: "Works of art are never finished, just stopped." *Reuters*



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CLINICALLY PROVEN

The call of the bell

JESUIT Communications' short film—"Batingaw" (The Bell)—was judged best short film in the last Cinemanila Film Festival.

Journey

"Batingaw" follows the journey of a young man, in search of himself and his place in the world. As he carries the bell that is his burden, he arrives at what could be called, for all intents and purposes, the end of the world: the dumpsite called Payatas.

As he meets the people there, he hears the call of a deeper bell, which is nothing other than the whisper of his soul. And he discovers that squalor and sorrow do not hold sway at the end, that there is light hidden in the depths of darkness and poverty.

Produced by Jesuit Communications Foundation Inc., the vision behind "Batingaw" is that of director and editor Lawrence Cordero, whose previous work includes the music videos "Humayo't Ihayag," and "Hesus ng Aking Buhay."

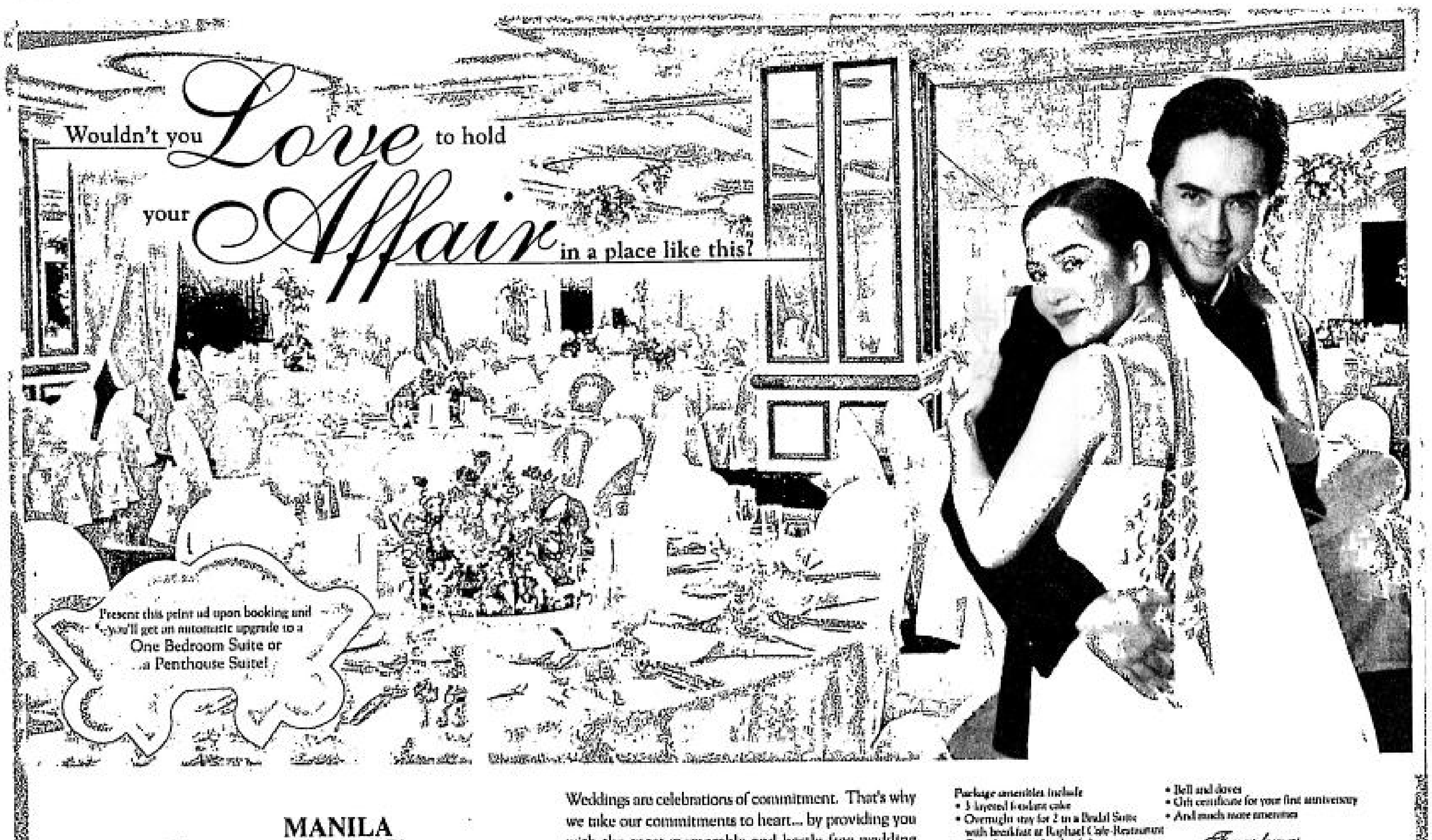
Script

With music from Arnel Aquino, SJ (pianist of the "Lauds" series), and a script written by Froi Medina and narrated by Nono Alfonso, SJ (host of the award-winning radio program "Pasakalye"), "Batingaw" features Francis Alvarez, SJ as the young man in search of his soul.

But all of this talented work only serves to draw our attention to the stark and painful beauty of Payatas.

Like a bell solemnly tolling, "Batingaw" calls us to examine our lives and our world. It invites us to join this young man as he follows the call of the bell, the call of his own heart: "Batingaw."

"Batingaw! will soon be released on video by Jesuit Communications.



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Music is a shared passion for Monsterbot bandmates

By Jocelyn Valle

RECORDING an album was an unreal experience for Monsterbot's Glenn Agustin (vocals), Diego Mapa (vocals and guitar), Karl Claudio (bass), Carlo Navarro (keyboards) and Ryan Magsumbol (drums). They looked giggly and tentative when they recently launched their debut CD, "Destroy! Destroy!"

"We never intended to have an album," says Diego. *"Kung ano lang ang tinutugtog namin, 'yun ang nagdala sa amin dito.* Now, wow!"

Sample

When it was time to give the audience a sample of their music by playing five cuts in "Destroy! Destroy!" the guys turned into earnest and steady musicians. Well, they've been honing their chops since high school at La Salle Antipolo.

Initially, they called themselves the Female Body Explosion. *"E, maraming nagtatanong kung lahat kami babae,"* Karl recalls, grinning. "So we changed our name to Monsterbot. *Si Diego kasi, may ganyang* Transformer robot and we liked it for our band's new name."

Since then, the young band started getting noticed. Monsterbot got a regular slot on "Grabe Sunday Grabe," Mayric's popular gathering of exciting groups. After that stint and a feature on NU 107's "In the Raw" program, Monsterbot got more bookings from other musical venues, making them a band to watch out for.

MONSTERBOT. Recording their first album was an "unreal" experience.

10 tunes

For "Destroy! Destroy!" they were able to collate 10 tunes ("I Can Fake It," "Explosive," "What Do You Mean By That?," "Everything You," "Parockstar," "Bury the Oreo," "Magnet," "Nine," "Display" and "Malfunction"), plus eight fillers (that serve as intros), through their jamming sessions.

"That's how we write our songs," chorus Glenn and Diego, who are the band's resident lyricists.

Their music has been described as "technically great but dirty, poppy yet heavy, new yet familiar, loud but melodic." But they are comfortable with the general musical genre of rock. Put on your headphones, though; your elders may not like the noise.

Third track

For first-time listeners, Monsterbot suggests listening to the third track, "Explosive." "Because everybody likes it," grins Diego, who looks like his big brother, former teen star and onetime recording artist Jao Mapa.

Diego would like to get into music fulltime, but he's also thinking of other career options when he finishes college. Others have day jobs, like Karl. *"Minsan, kailangan um*absent *'pag may* gig," he quips, winking to the audience not to tell his boss about it.

But nothing can stop him from playing for Monsterbot. Music, after all, is the band's shared passion.

Mia Farrow reaches out to children of Angola

GENEVA—US actress and Unicef goodwill ambassador Mia Farrow is to begin a tour of Angola to highlight the plight of women and children after nearly three decades of war.

Four provinces

The UN Children's Fund (Unicef) said Farrow would travel to four provinces hardest hit by the 27-year civil war that ended in April, including central Bie Province and its capital Kuito.

Her week-long itinerary, starting Monday, includes visits to a camp for displaced civilians, a landmine awareness program for children and HIV/AIDS prevention projects supported by Unicef, the UN agency said.

"Her eyes will be the world's eyes," Mario Ferrari, Unicef representative in Angola, said in a statement. "Although Angola is suffering, it is also entering a time of renewal," he added.

A ceasefire was agreed in April less than two months after the battlefield death of Jonas Savimbi, historic leader of the National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola (Unita).

More than one million people who had been cut off in Unita-controlled areas are now being reached for the first time in many years, it added.

Families

Farrow, who has been a Unicef special representative since September 2000, will also meet government leaders and Unicef staff involved in efforts to register unaccompanied children and trace their families.

Angolan government estimates put at 100,000 the number of children that have been separated from their families by war, while up to 700,000 are believed to have lost at least one parent.

Unicef executive director Carol Bellamy urged the world to remain focused on Angola. *AFP*

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Sam Mendes scores two out of two

By Nestor U. Torre

MENDES. Second films can be even scarier than first efforts.

A COUPLE of years ago, acclaimed theater director Sam Mendes megged his first film, "American Beauty." Usually, directors who come from the theater have a hard time thinking in terms of film rather than the stage, but Mendes turned out to be one of the few happy exceptions to the rule.

Solid hit

"American Beauty" was a solid hit, and even won a number of awards. Mendes himself won a number of Best Director awards—an Oscar, a Golden Globe award, the Directors Guild of America award, the Los Angeles Film Critics award, and the Broadcast Film Critics award.

This year, Mendes has directed his second film, "Road to Perdition." The big question, of course, is: does it measure up to his first movie's critical and commercial success?

Second films can be even scarier than first efforts, especially when debut movies are success-

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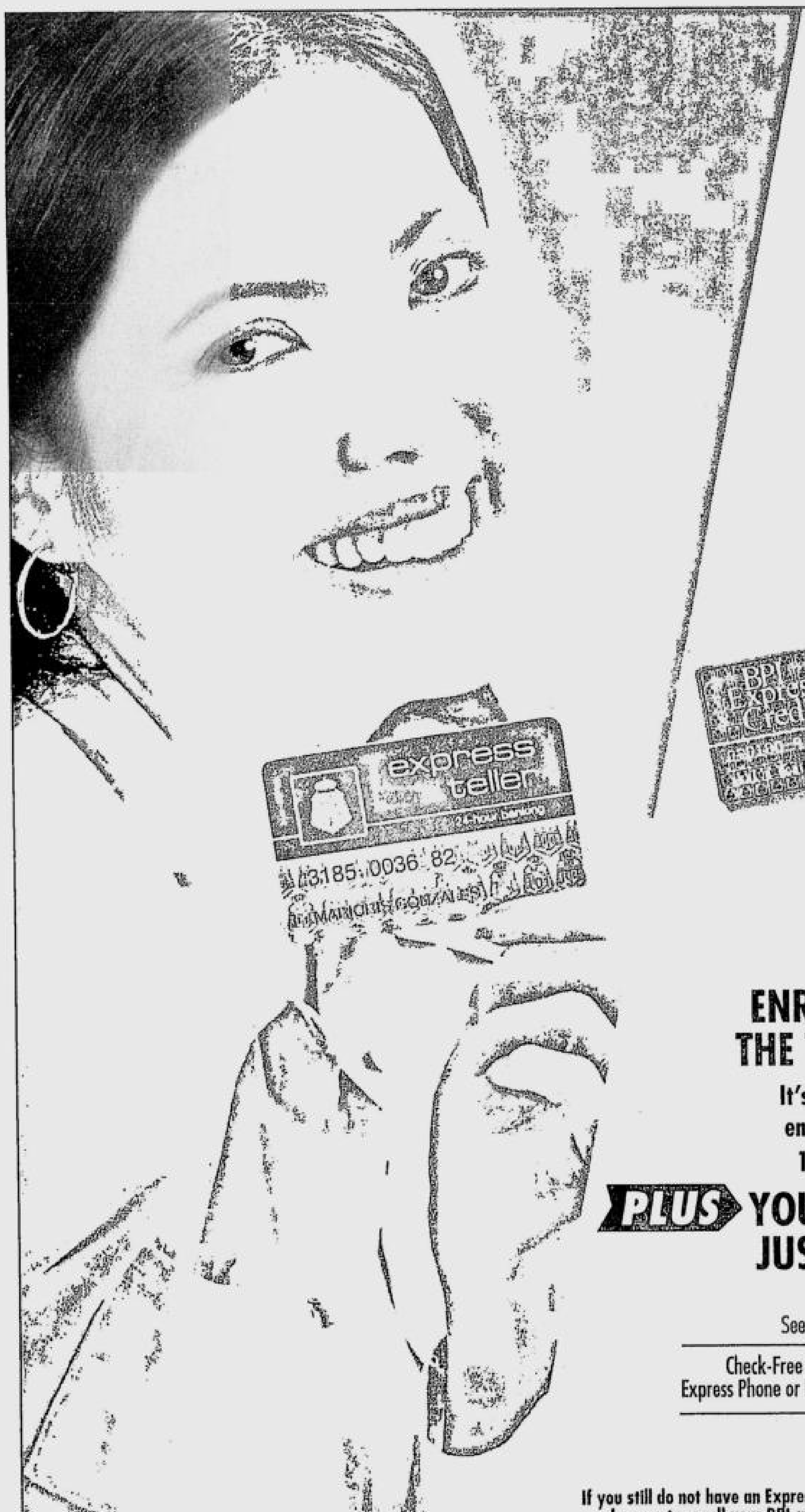

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Playwrights Wilson, Miller and Gilroy in 'Shoptalk'

By Noelani Torre

"I ASKED a lot of people a lot of questions in the 1970s," says journalist Dennis Brown in his introduction to "Shoptalk: Conversations about Theater and Film" (Newmarket Press). Obviously, most of those people were writers because, as he himself put it, "I have yet to meet a writer who didn't have something worth saying."

Fresh and relevant

The good thing is that most of what they say is worth reading about. The interviews remain fresh and relevant, especially to those aspiring to be playwrights and scriptwriters. They're also interesting to those who are curious about the creative process that goes into the making of a film or a play.

Brown's style is laid-back but respectful, allowing us to focus on the subject of the interview, not on the interviewer. He is a good listener and this again is a good thing because he remains in the background, but asks enough questions to get the interviewee going.

The interviews in "Shoptalk" are both informative and sensitive. Three of the interviewees, all Pulitzer-prize winning playwrights, are Lanford Wilson, Jason Miller, and Frank D. Gilroy.

Gilroy also took up film directing, producing such films as "Desperate Characters" which starred Shirley MacLaine in what some critics describe as her best performance.

He talks candidly about the pleasures and uncertainties of writing and of filmmaking in Hollywood: "The directing thing—it's the headiest trip in the world," he said. "And if it's your own writing, it's the headiest adventure."

ACTOR-WRITER Jason Miller in "The Exorcist."

Ireland

Things aren't always as positive though: "If one goes to Ireland," he explains, "one feels tremendously like a writer, even if he hasn't done anything well . . . Here, it's like, what did you do yesterday? What have you done for me recently?

"That's part of the American ethic, and one just accepts it. Nothing's old in America. You do what you do and you survive, however you survive."

Still, Gilroy has been forever haunted by his old and most successful work, the Pulitzer prize-winning play "The Subject Was Roses." Brown quotes a New York Times article quoting Gilroy: "I'd like to walk into a room sometime," said the writer, "and be introduced as the author of something other than that play."

Playwright and actor Jason Miller is probably best remembered for his role as the priest, Father Karras, in "The Exorcist" (which garnered him an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor) and for his play "That Championship Season" which bagged him a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award. His interview is rather mawkish, but it does present us with a clear and intense portrait of Miller:

Challenge

"Today is today; it's not yesterday," he says. "You can draw a certain amount of strength from having a success, but then you have to go out and take a step that is a challenge. You have to come near the abyss in a certain way, come near the danger of doing something radically different or new. It's almost like an act of faith . . . The work is the refuge."

Unfortunately, Miller's subsequent works weren't as successful as his first and the chapter on him is titled, quite appropriately, "Season in the Sun."

Lanford Wilson is one of American theater's most respected and established talents. His first commercially successful play, "The Hot L Baltimore" even became a television series (that bombed), and it gave him the Obie Award and the Drama Critics Award for Best American Play.

Subsequent plays

Subsequent plays were also successful, and "Talley's Folly" won the Pulitzer Prize. The success of these plays, most of them set in his hometown, affirms that old writer's adage, "Write what you know."

Wilson speaks wryly about being a writer in theater: "We have to be very good at business and show biz in order to survive," he says. "In this business, you're one-half sincere writer and one-half show biz manipulator. The work comes first, but we're also prepared to take utter advantage. I don't think it's going to ruin any of us to make money on our work."

With his continued success up to the present, and the consistent high quality of his plays, perhaps Wilson is the best model for aspiring writers to follow.

Sam Mendes scores . . .

From page E1

ful, because people have heightened expectations that are almost impossible to fulfill.

This is especially true when the new filmmaker hedges his bets and makes pretty much a second version of his initial success.

No bet-hedger

But Mendes is no bet-hedger. For his second movie, he's made a film that's even more somber than "American Beauty." It's like he's daring film audiences (and critics) to do their worst—but Hollywood's new Golden Boy in the field of directing can't seem to do anything wrong: "Road to Perdition" is a critical success, and the money it's making can't be sneezed at, either.

Of course, the film's success can't be attributed solely to Mendes. It topbills Tom Hanks, Paul Newman, Jude Law and Jennifer Jason Leigh, and heavy star value like that is great box-office insurance. But Mendes' unique touch is what has made the film come together in a particularly creative and empathetic way.

Major comer

What has made Mendes such a major comer in film directing? He was born in England, was educated at Cambridge University, and joined the Chichester Festival Theater in 1987. Soon after, he directed Dame Judi Dench in "The Cherry Orchard," which won him his first directing award, a Critics Circle award for Best Newcomer.

That opened even more doors for him. In 1990, he joined the famous Royal Shakespeare Company. He directed productions like "Troilus and Cressida" (starring Ralph Fiennes), "Richard III" and "The Tempest." For that last production, he earned an Olivier Award nomination.

In 1992, Mendes became artistic director of the innovative Donmar Warehouse in London, where he directed many award-winning productions.

Olivier Awards

He won Olivier Awards for Best Director for his staging of "Cabaret," "The Glass Menagerie," "Company" and "Assassins"—which, we're pleased to say, we were able to watch on our last trip to London.

His innovative mounting of "Cabaret" was his biggest theater triumph, first in London and then on Broadway. Mendes was also praised for his direction of the Broadway play "The Blue Room," with Nicole Kidman.

"Assassins" won a Critics Circle award, and Mendes' mounting of "Othello" went on a global performance tour and won for him another Olivier Award for Best Director.

Anti-hero

Mendes says he was attracted to the script of "Road to Perdition" because its protagonist, the character played by Hanks, is decidedly an anti-hero, and the story itself is complex and daunting, with a number of insightful things to say about goodness and evil in this world.

Its protagonist, Michael Sullivan, is a dutiful, protective father, but he is also a hit man for the Irish mob in Chicago during the Depression. Hanks had his work cut out for him getting under the skin of this extremely complicated and even self-contradictory man.

Perfect director

Producers Richard and Dean Zanuck knew Mendes was the perfect director for "Road to Perdition" right after their first meeting with him. Dean Zanuck recalls, "As he spoke, we felt the movie elevating before our very eyes."

For his part, Mendes says he connected immediately with the material: "It was an incredibly simple, powerful story. At its heart, there was the father-son relationship, but it was also a serious gangster movie set in the last mythic time in America, the Depression era.

"Best of all, it had this fascinating central character who was morally ambivalent. We don't know if he is a good man or bad man—from the beginning, all the way up to the end! Who can resist a character like that?"

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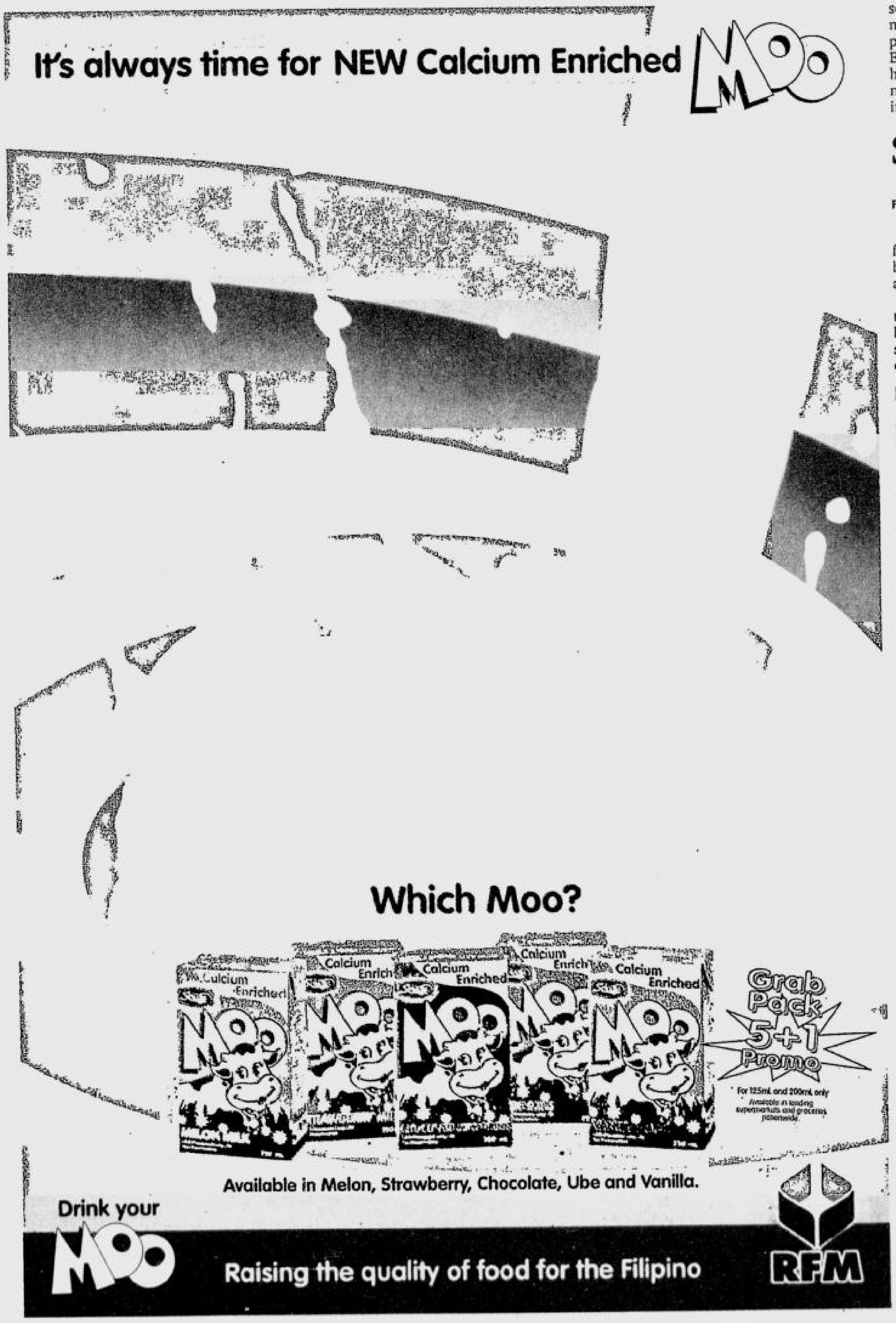
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AUNOR. Plays a good singer who sacrifices her career for her sister (Cherie Gil).

Ricky Lee defends Nora against her detractors

By Edmund L. Sicam

ABS-CBN's new soap "Bituin" premieres on Monday with *the* Superstar herself, Nora Aunor leading the cast. This time, the concept is different. Says Ricky Lee, the series' creative manager and close friend to Ate Guy, "We didn't want to do the usual soap na *melodramang drama, na may sindikato…sabi namin, ibahin naman natin.* Let's do drama *na may* musical numbers."

Singing

Where exactly in a soap opera would singing come in? *"Parang yung sa* 'My Best Friend's Wedding', *yung scene na may* 'Say a Little Prayer'… it becomes a production number, but it's a realistic situation. In a nutshell, the story is, Cherie Gil is a former diva who wants to make a comeback. *Si* Nora Aunor is a good singer who sacrificed her career for her sister, si Cherie. *Yung anak niyang si* Carol, *may magandang boses at gustong kumanta."*

Were there any apprehensions about getting Nora? Says Ricky, "No. The initial reaction *kaagad* was excitement. The apprehension came in the sense *na, papayag ba si* Guy? When she said yes, *walang problema. Ate* Guy really was excited. *Ang tinanong lang niya siyempre* was, *sinong mga taong katrabaho, sino ang direktor. Si Guy kasi* wants to work with people she trusts."

Ricky continues, "Everyone is waiting for *intriga*—was she on time, etc. Well, she was there ahead of everybody, fully made up, memorized *na ang* lines *niya. Wala naman siyang* unusual demands. *Nagtawaran* on both sides, which is usually the case, but they came to an agreement, *at nagpirmahan."*

Two versions

What about those rumors that there were two versions of the script—one for just in case Nora wouldn't show up? "That isn't true. We have a fifth draft of the pilot already, but not because of her. Because *binubusisi namin talaga.* All the comments come from us. But from Guy, *puro* questions *lang.*

As a topnotch scriptwriter and close friend to *Ate* Guy, Ricky must know that Nora's life would make a good soap opera. What would be Nora's tragic flaw? "Having gone through a life *na ganyang klase—ang bata-bata mo pa, nahila ka na para ma-*adulate *ng mga tao, wala ka nang* normal life—how can you have a conventional life? I think that's the source of all her fears. She has a lot of fears: Can you trust people around you? Are these real friends or not?

"Gagamitin at gagamitin ka ng tao. Hahanapan at hahanapan ka ng wala kang mabibigay. Pagnagbigay ka ng 20, *hahanapan ka ng* 30. *Pagnagbigay ka ng* 30, *hahanapan ka ng* 50.

"*Kung* 20 taping days *yan, at hindi ka* late *ng* 15 taping days, *hinihintay pa rin nila sa* 16th taping day *na malate ka. At doon sila magfo-focus. They demand something na* never *nila ide-*demand *sa ibang artista.* So, she has a lot of fears.

Lapses

"In the end, I'm not going to blame a person who led a life *na gano'n.* Because she gave us so much. So, I'm going to forget the lapses. When she does those things, I'm going to say *mali yan,* but I'm not going to condemn the person."

Ricky shares, "Nora has an irrational shyness. Like at the story conference, it was she who felt shy when she was introduced to Carol Banawa. It is not exaggerated, it is not put on. It is something she really feels."

Ricky gives an example of just how much Nora is adored by the fans, and just how personal their connection is: "Lumapit yung mommy *ni* Carol *sa amin na* Noranian—she's happier than Carol. Nakita niya si Guy, *lumuha, umiyak. Sabi niya sa akin,* you know, Ricky, when I found out *na si* Guy *makakatrabaho ng anak ko.* I was so overwhelmed, *kinausap ko yung litrato ng* brother *ni* Carol *(na namatay na)!"*

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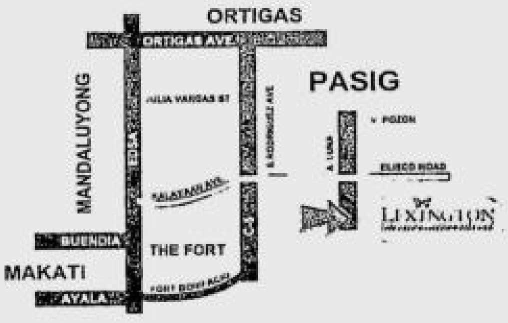

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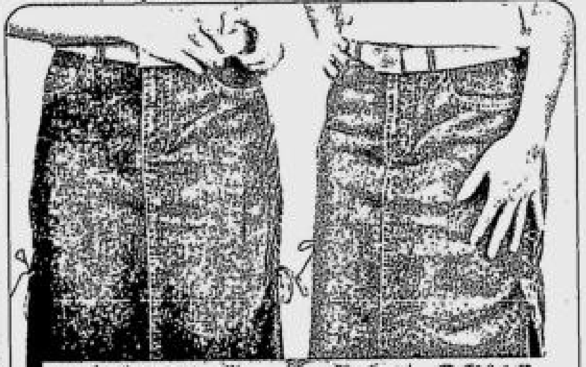

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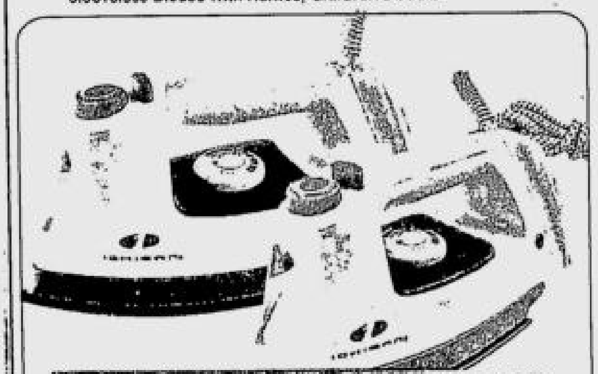

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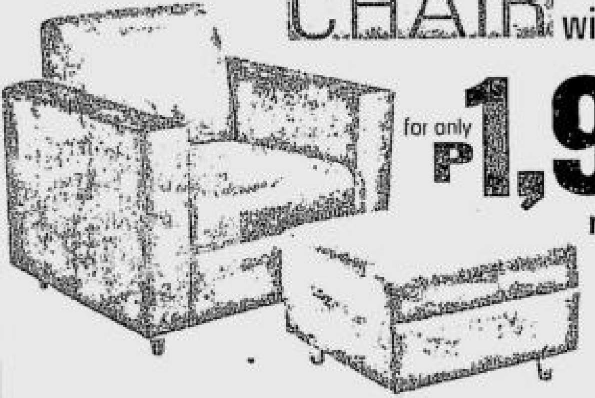

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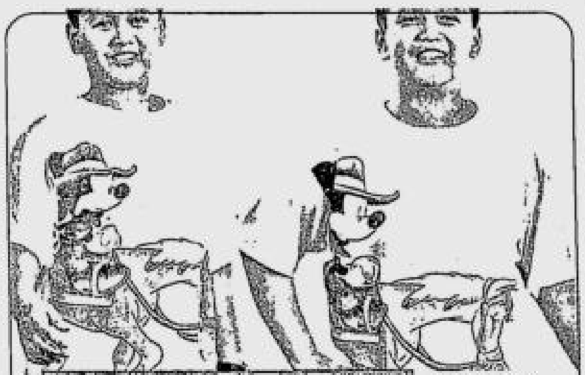

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SATURDAY *Special*

Starring role for Christopher Reeve in ABC documentary

REEVE. Hopes to direct a film next year.

By Frazier Moore

NEW YORK—Christopher Reeve wants to show that "conventional wisdom is now falling by the wayside" in a new documentary that chronicles remarkable progress in his fight to regain movement and even walk again.

Paralyzed

Airing last Wednesday on ABC network, "Christopher Reeve: Courageous Steps" shows the "Superman" star moving his right wrist, left fingers and both legs—developments few in the scientific community predicted after he was paralyzed in a riding accident in 1995.

The film was directed by Reeve's 22-year-old son Matthew, who "enabled the documentary to give what I call a fly-on-the-wall, warts-and-all look at my life, which I would not have been willing to reveal to some other documentary-maker."

"In the past, people have seen me when I'm all put together in the (wheel)chair, dressed and groomed," Reeve said during a telephone conference Monday. "This is what really goes on daily."

The film, narrated by Reeve, shows his intensive exercise regimen, as well as his home life with his family, including actress-wife Dana Reeve, near New York City.

Graduation

It covers a yearlong period from May 27, 2001, the sixth anniversary of his accident, and includes his attendance at Matthew's graduation from Brown University on May 27 this year.

"What we're trying to show is that conventional wisdom is now falling by the wayside," the actor said.

Making the film drew father and son even closer, said Matthew Reeve, adding, "We plan to continue filming as long as it takes." He envisions additional specials for the future.

The elder Reeve, who in 1998 starred in a TV remake of the Hitchcock thriller "Rear Window," hopes to direct a film next year.

"It's difficult logistically, as well as physically and emotionally," he noted, "so I only want to do projects I'm passionate about."

Reeve's recovery thus far defies medical theory since it didn't occur until five years after his injury.

"There's tremendous potential for harnessing the body's desire to heal itself," he said.

Pledge

But his regained motion and sensation (he can feel a pinprick on the majority of his body) falls short of his widely quoted pledge to walk by his 50th birthday, which is on Sept. 25.

That vow, said Reeve, "was meant to motivate researchers to move more quickly, and I think that it did have that effect."

However, more recent controversy over embryonic stem cell research—which could help people with Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease or spinal-cord injuries—has delayed important work, Reeve said.

"I feel that we've lost almost four years of significant progress," he said. *AP*

Tanya Garcia: The quiet one opens up

By Edmund L. Sicam

GARCIA. Acting is in her blood.

WE spoke to Tanya Garcia recently at the press conference of GMA's soap "Sana Ay Ikaw Nga," where Tanya plays the dual roles of Cecilia and Olga. A quiet girl by nature, it is rather hard to get long answers from her at first.

She says matter of factly, " I've always been a quiet person—I don't open up easily to people. I have to know a person really well before I open up to him."

So, we tease her, "How many times do we need to interview you before you open up?" "About 10 times..." she says, and laughs. But we still learned a thing or two about the young soap opera actress:

TANYA/F2

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Popular stars topbill new productions

LOPEZ. Strong and scrappy in "Enough."

By Nestor U. Torre

GWYNETH Paltrow latest starrer is "Possession," where she co-stars with a relative newcomer, Aaron Eckhart. The film may not be one of Paltrow's hits, but it has still created a buzz because it's adapted from a novel that won the prestigious Booker Prize.

Paltrow and Eckhart play literary scholars who unearth the amorous secret of two Victorian poets—only to find themselves falling under a passionate spell.

Battered wife

For her part, Jennifer Lopez comes on strong and scrappy in "Enough." She plays a battered wife and mother who runs away from her abusive husband. Trouble is, he is able to ferret her out, despite her frequent changes of addresses and disguises.

The time comes when she decides to stop running and learns to defend herself. When she'd good and ready, she meets her husband on his own violent terms. She's had enough!

Eddie Murphy's new movie is "Pluto Nash," a sci-fi comedy set in outer space. Murphy's character refuses to sell his club on the moon to a lunar mobster, and elicits the wrath of an evil crime lord. With the help of other good folks, Pluto Nash fights to foil the mysterious manipulator's master plan to take over the world.

Old sneakers

In "Like Mike," a 14-year-old basketball player achieves his "crazy" dream of attaining NBA superstardom. His secret weapons: a pair of old sneakers that turn out to have magical powers. They enable him to hit 25-foot jump shots, make dizzying behind-the-back passes, and slam home devastating dunks.

Our young hero is played by child rap artist Lil Bow Wow. He teams up with Morris Chestnut as his magical mentor, and NBA stars Chris Webber, Vince Carter, Allen Iverson, Jason Kidd, Alonzo Mourning, David Robinson, Tracy McGrady and Gary Payton.

Fireman

In "Reign of Fire," Christian Bale stars as a fireman in the near future who battles the centuries-old dragon that has ravaged much of the world with its offspring. Matthew McConaughey is cast as a man who teams up with the fireman, claiming he has a way to kill the menacing beasts.

Finally, "Spy Kids2" topbills Antonio Banderas as the father of two young OSS operatives, and Carla Gugino plays his wife. This sequel takes their children Carmen and Juni (Alexa Vega and Daryl Sabara) on a mission to retrieve a device so powerful that it can zap electricity off the face of the earth.

Mutant creatures

They travel via a fully-automated Dragon Spy Club to a mysterious volcanic island inhabited by a menagerie of mutant creatures and a scientist played by Steve Buscemi.

The two superkids find themselves in big trouble when none of their gadgets work on the island, and they have to rely on their wits—and each other—to save the day.

In search of Marilyn Monroe's resting place

By Behn Cervantes

(Conclusion)

WHEN Mac slowly drove into the small but peaceful memorial park, he headed towards the parking area. As he parked, I glanced to my right and saw the tombstones of the great film director Billy Wilder and comic genius Jack Lemmon.

Delightful scenes

I remembered Lemmon's delightful scenes with Monroe in "Some Like It Hot." Yes, directed by Billy Wilder, no less. It was all coming together. We had indeed found the place.

Certain that we were in the right place and assured by the company of Jack and Billy, I purposely slowed down the pace. I leisurely strolled around the park while other tourists were respectfully doing their thing. The memorial park is so small and pretty, you are forced to be mindful of the dead resting there.

Besides, Mac and I had found (our) Marilyn. Deep inside us we were happy. We had made a connection with the fantabulous but lonely and vulnerable Marilyn this quiet afternoon.

In one corner of the park, I chanced upon the niche of Brian Keith. Mac pointed out the tomb of Alan Kaplan, the philosopher and educator. He also came across the little marker of Cornel Wilde, the swashbuckling hero of "Forever Amber."

Rapport

As an actress, I had thoroughly enjoyed Marilyn's scintillating performance in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" with Jane Russell. I was in awe of Marilyn's girlish but captivating style in "Some Like It Hot," where she demonstrated obvious rapport with Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis. I felt I really knew her. I am sure I did not go there out of mere curiosity.

I liked the blonde actress even though in her lifetime many exploited her and gave her intellectual pursuits little importance.

I finally walked towards her section of the park when I felt I was ready to mourn her. The little bottle beside her niche held flowers. Where was Joe's solitary red rose? Wasn't that his instruction when he was alive, that there be a rose in that bottle every day *in perpetuum*? She is his greatest love, after all.

Was it that red rose among the colorful asters? I was relieved.

After a spell I walked around the park.

Widow

I entered another section. There I saw the niches of Catherine Marshall and Gregson Bautzer. Wasn't the former the widow of Peter Marshall, the great preacher portrayed by Richard Todd in the movie "A Man Called Peter?" Wasn't Bautzer the Hollywood playboy who courted the likes of Ginger Rogers and Lana Turner? He finally married the classy British import, Dana Wynter.

I also chanced upon the niche of Presentacion Fernandez. She was one of the very few with a picture in her niche. From the photographic evidence and her name I was assured she was indeed a Filipina. She died at the age of 100!

The inscription said she was a great grandmother, grandmother and mother beloved by all in her family. That love was the same thing I had in my heart for the erstwhile orphan who bloomed to become one of Hollywood's most glamorous. Mac and I had searched for Marilyn's grave. We found it in time for this meaningful experience.

It's been many years, to be sure. But, better late than never, right? Rest well, Marilyn. We love you.

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Art of 'sweet talk'

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

ONE of the important subjects taught in ancient Vedic schools for young boys was the art of "sweet talk." Every boy was taught how to speak the truth, to convince without causing distress, and to mediate to bring warring individuals together to achieve peace. This is a very important skill for all of us to learn.

Real issues

Many relationships today fail because people can no longer communicate properly with each other. When there is an attempt to discuss things, destructive criticisms are thrown at each other and the real issues are lost in the battle.

Here are some of the points to remember when communicating with others:

1. Every living being is part and parcel of the Supreme and deserves to be respected as such. Our spouse is not our personal property, neither is a child, nor an employee. Being children of the Supreme, they have a right to speak and we need to listen to them.

Sincere effort

2. If we are compassionate and caring, we will make a sincere effort to present our ideas and thoughts in a way that will not hurt people. There is no need to resort to words that agitate or degrade others.

3. If we need to talk about problems, let us stick to the issues at hand. Let us talk about the acts, not the actors. There is no need to destroy one another in the process of solving a problem.

For example, if spouses are discussing their child's problem, there is no need to talk about their personal history of wrongdoing. Focus on the problem and help each other come to a good solution.

4. If a person has to be convinced that he is at fault, it is important to make him understand that we are sincerely concerned about his welfare and have no intention or desire to hurt and destroy him.

Humility

5. Humility on the part of the speaker will make it easier for people to accept their mistakes and faults.

6. Communicating requires patience and tolerance. Walking out on people or refusing to carry on a discussion is a sign that we have given up on them. We must try different ways and angles to make others see our point.

7. If there is no agreement reached, we should leave each other's presence with continuing good relations and concern for one another.

Good communication requires cooperation from all parties concerned. If there is no desire on the part of others to communicate, the discussion will not fare well.

However, it is most important that we do our best and leave everything in the hands of the Supreme. We are not in control of people's minds or hearts, but we must give the process of communication our best effort. If we practice the art of sweet talk, there will be greater chances of succeeding.

Tanya Garcia . . .

From page F1

College

We learn, for instance, that she's stopped going to school for a while. She's supposed to be in third year college by now, taking up Mass Communications. Show biz, she says, is something she wants to do full time now. "Because they gave me something really big, so I might as well grab it. *Baka* next year, *wala na yan.*"

Another plus is that she finds her leading man in the soap, Dingdong Dantes, quite good-looking. "*At si* Dingdong, *may pinag-aralan na tao.* He still has his values. *At* gentleman."

Problems

How long did it take her to open up to Dingdong? "It took some time *din*. But now, he knows when I'm in a bad mood. Sometimes I tell him when I have problems." Love problems? "Money problems. *Madaling utangan yan,*" *she laughs heartily.*

What about love? She confesses that there are some suitors. She talks about her first "love" when she was 13. But she concedes it was probably puppy love. He did give her her first kiss—"*pero* smack *lang ha!* But it was boring. Corny."

Tears of anger

We ask her if she's ever cried watching movies. Yes, she has—Tagalog movies make her cry... and some soap operas. She doesn't shed tears when she's happy... she cries when she's mad. How does she handle her anger? "Once I threw my cellphone and it got busted. That's why I bought a new phone... because this one is shock-proof."

GARCIA AND DANTES. Young leads of "Sana Ay Ikaw na Nga."

What makes her angry? "Little things... I'm very moody, *e*. When I'm in a bad mood and you do something that really irritates me, I'll get mad." She explains, "I don't hit anyone *naman*... I just throw things."

Accident

Has it always been a childhood dream of hers to be an actress? No, she says, she entered show biz by accident. She wanted to be a model but she was too short. While waiting for a VTR, someone spotted her and asked her to go with him to ABS-CBN because he was about to present talents there.

When she got there..."I was just seated in one corner and they went up to me and asked me, hey, do you want to be an actress? A week later, they sent me a contract. I didn't even audition." (Garcia is not her family name. ABS-CBN's Freddie Garcia gave her his family name to use as a screen name.)

It seems acting is in Tanya's blood. She's the great granddaughter of Carmen Rosales, a true movie icon in her time.

AQUINO AND AGASSI. Business partners.

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Kris Aquino teams up with Carlos Agassi

By Edmund L. Sicam

NO, Kris is not doing a soap with Carlos. The two are now partners in a business they call Foot Trip, The Ultimate Foot Haven located at the Ground Floor of The Loop inside ABS-CBN. Carlos recently invited a few entertainment writers to sample what the place had to offer.

So, while we were interviewing Carlos, someone was giving our tired feet a soak and later, a pumice scrub. It felt strange talking to a celebrity while someone was pounding on our feet but, hey, when we entered this profession, we promised to endure all sorts of sacrifices to accomplish any assignment.

Earlier, at the reception area, we were asked to choose from six different services. One was called Frozen Hot Chocolate Treatment, which we thought was what they gave you after undergoing the service. We were wrong. It consisted of a buttermilk foot soak, the prelude to a Chocolate Body Icing and Chocolate Foot Cream massage. We were afraid of ants crawling up our body, so we passed on that one.

Another was called Absolute Indulgence: "A Lushly Floral Foot Soak starts off the long and soothing journey, with a foot scrub, pedicure, and massage to give your feet that refreshing lift." It sounded inviting but we passed on that, too, since it was going to take 90 minutes and we had another appointment.

We opted instead for the Hot Stone Spa which offered "an intensive pressure massage with a cleansing footsoak, pumice foot scrub, and a head and back spot massage." We actually fell asleep on the Lazy Boy chair with the New Age music and the relaxing atmosphere.

Afterwards, we had coffee with Carlos, who told us that his soap might end sometime soon. He's supposed to do another TV show but there's no definite word on that yet. That doesn't mean Carlos will have an easy schedule anytime soon. He still appears regularly on "ASAP." He left a few days ago with The Hunks to do a concert tour in Dubai. And he's working on his second album.

Carlos was also excited that "Dekada '70" had wrapped up shooting and will be shown in this year's Metro Manila Film Festival. Because of the long lull before shooting resumed, he had to reshoot many of his scenes. That's because his features had already changed, so continuity would be affected.

Willy Cruz is back

Willy Cruz is one of the insitutions in the local music industry so, when Viva Records announced that he was coming up with an album, there was great anticipation about the release. Many were expecting it to contain many of his original compositions like "Sana'y Wala Ng Wakas" and "Bituin Walang Ningning," but that will have to wait for his next album. His latest, "Got to Believe in Magic," contains famous themes from motion pictures and soap operas like "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," "Pangako Sa 'Yo," and "Forevermore." It also has one of his compositions, "Sana'y Maghiuntay Ang Walang Hanggan."

We caught up recently with Willy at Podium where he performed cuts from the album, and his original compositions. When he started, only a handful of people were around but as he played, the second floor lobby filled up with curious onlookers and fans who had not seen him perform in a long time. It was a well-applauded performance.

Willy told us that he got sick and had to rest from his professional chores. His illness had to do with complications brought about by diabetes, but he's well now and raring to go.

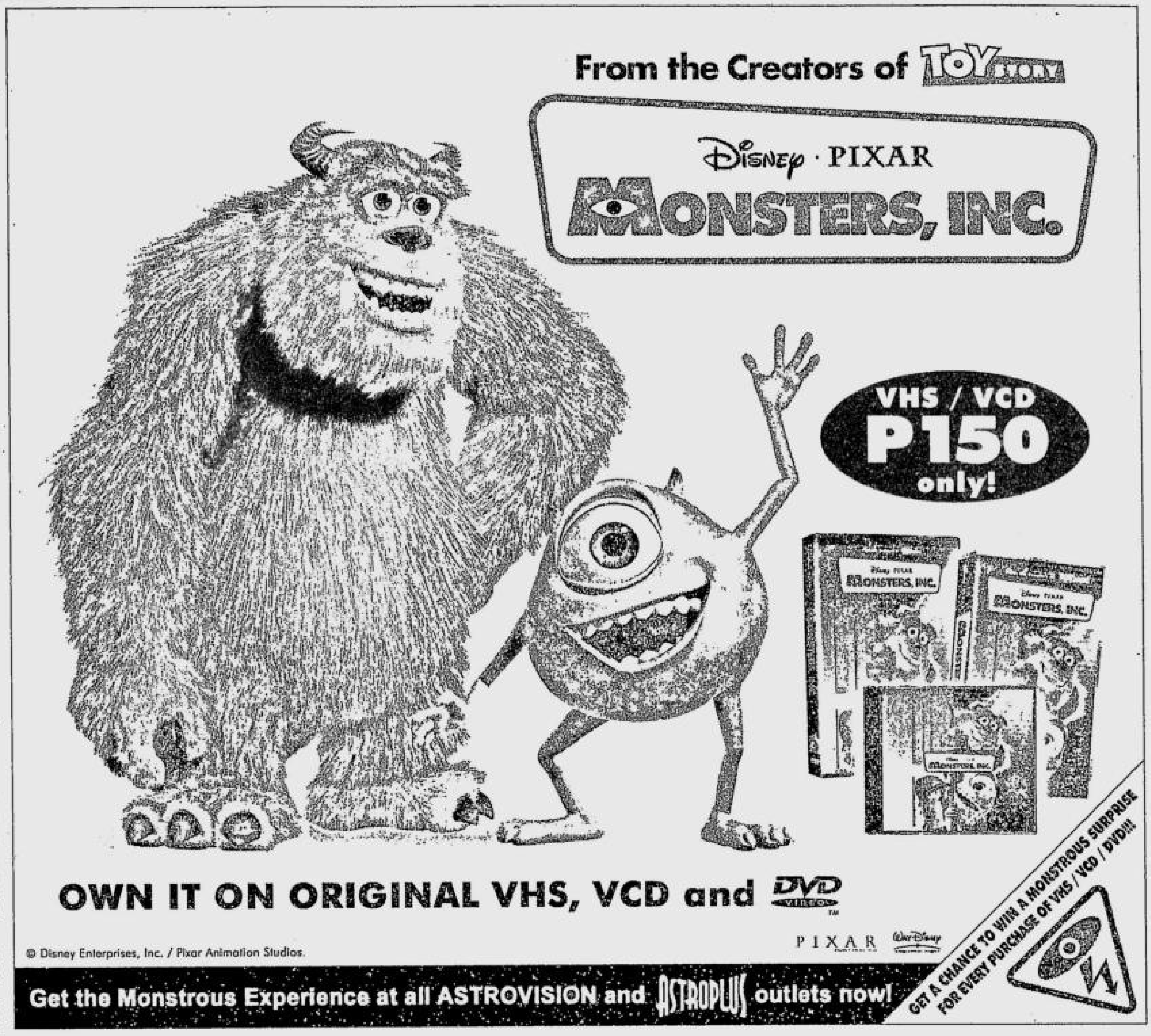
Several months ago, we were fortunate to interview Michel Legrand when he came to Manila. He told us that the only thing he needs to be given is a deadline to finish a composition. He added that many of his compositions are commissioned works, and he finds that's the best way to spur him to work.

Willy operates basically the same way. He said most of his compositions were done for singers like Sharon Cuneta, Zsa Zsa Padilla, and Nonoy Zuniga, or as scores for movies. Someone once asked him why he has not composed a complete musical and his reply was, "Because no one has asked me to." Once his composition is recorded, he goes on to the next project, because he says he will never stop improving his piece if he doesn't let it go.

Phantom . . .

From page F4

fore they become great. They're all below 25 at the moment and they already have a lot of potential, so we have high hopes for their future. With the good show they gave us in "The Guest," we're certainly looking forward to Phantom Planet's next release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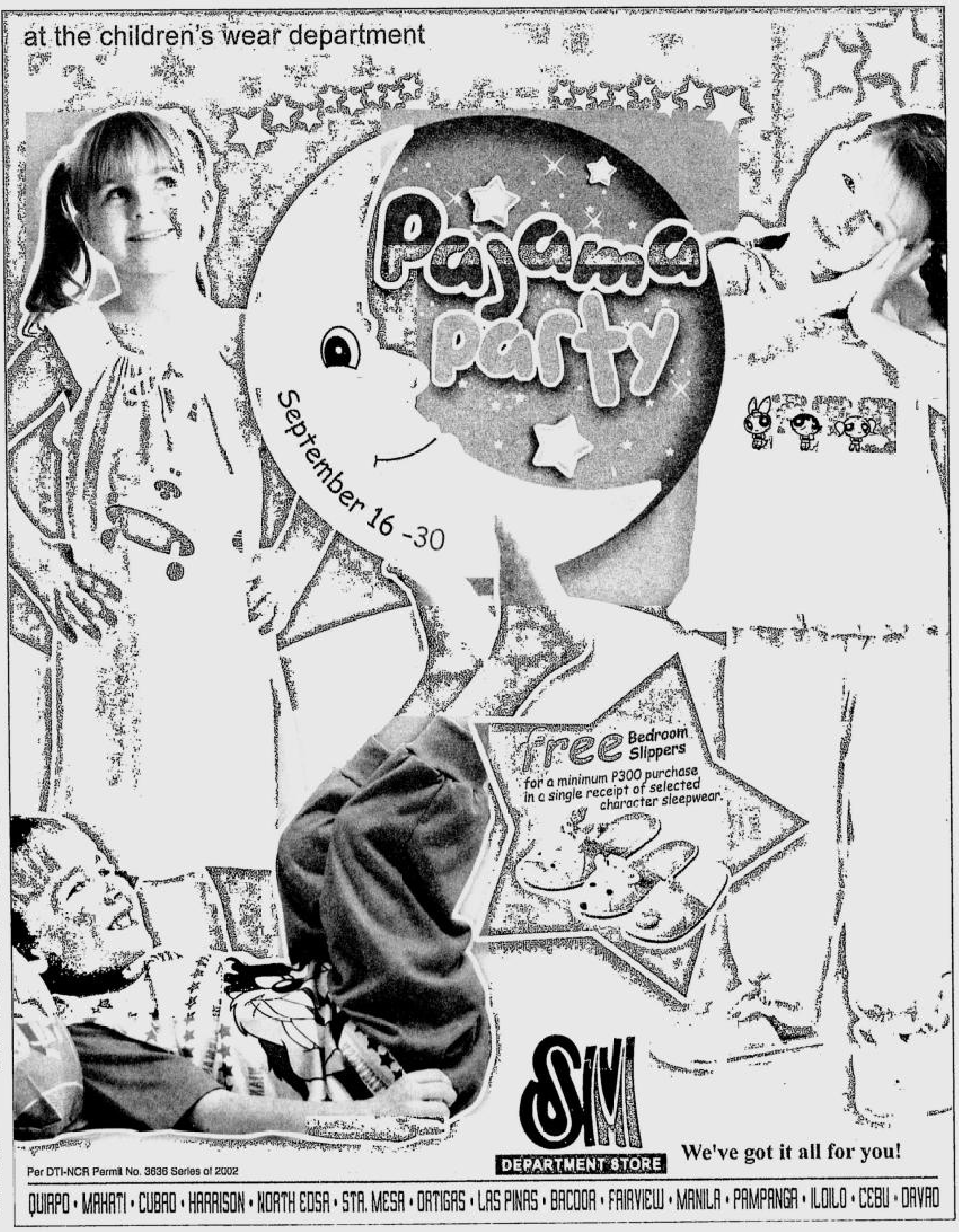
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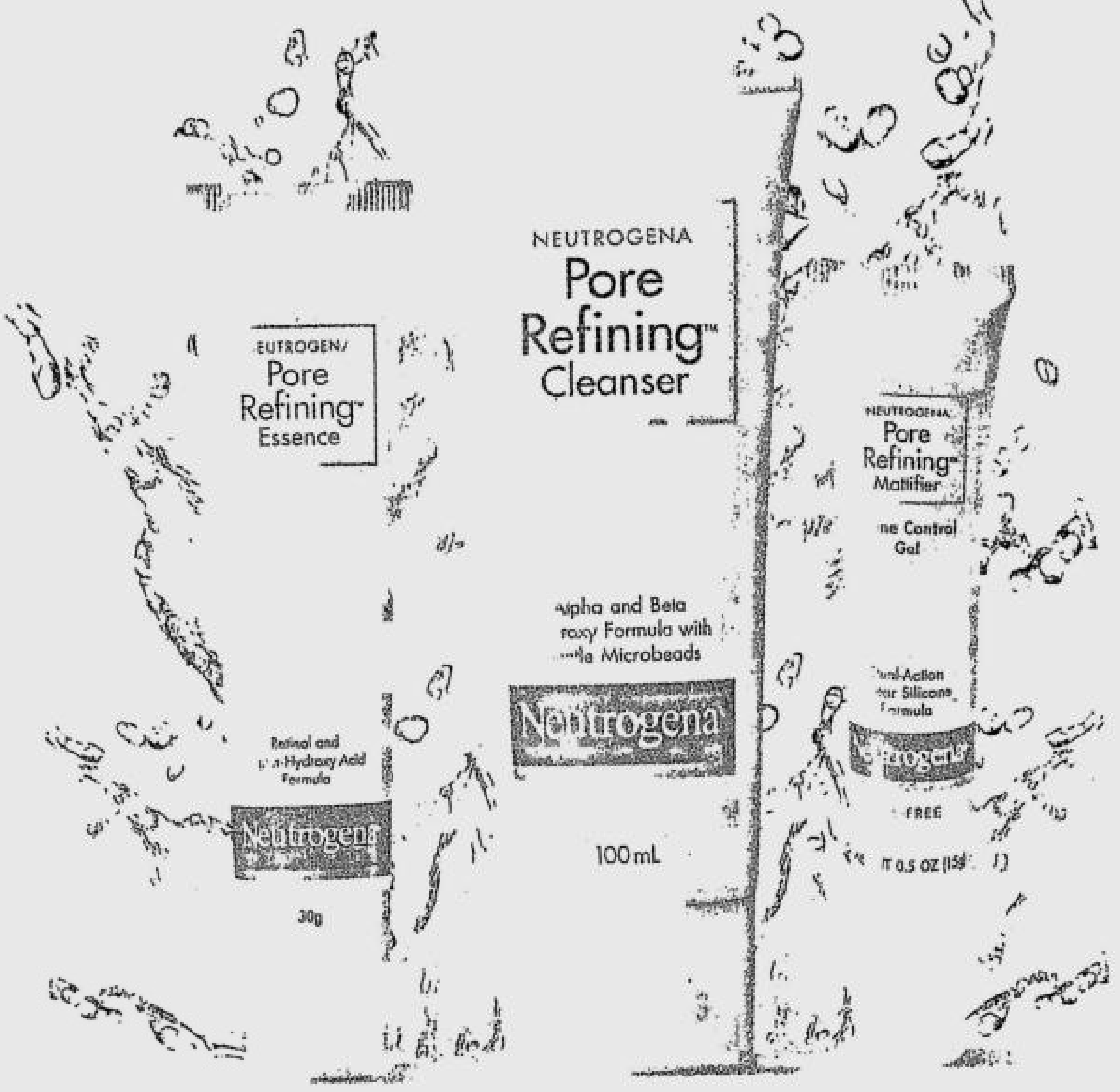
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DR. Aida Mendoza-Salonga at a Health Forum where she discussed the SSPE malady.

More donations needed

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

AN SSPE Children Care Foundation patient, Benjie Raypon, has been diagnosed as SSPE Stage IV. SSPE or Subacute Sclerosing Pancephalitis is the late complication of measles. According to Dr. Aida Mendoza-Salonga, chair, Pediatric Neurology Section, UP-PGH, measles immunization coverage by the Department of Health is 80 percent to 90 percent, not yet 100 percent. At PGH, they have tested 70 cases of SSPE.

Immune systems

Dr. Salonga said most children with SSPE had measles at two years old or younger. They have immune systems that are not fully developed, and are thus unable to kill all viruses in the blood when they get measles. Over the years, the virus multiplies and destroys the nervous system.

Symptoms appear years after a child has contracted measles. He appears to lose energy and interest in school work, cannot stand, loses appetite, stops eating, and becomes bedridden, seemingly paralyzed.

At a recent health forum, Dr. Aida Mendoza-Salonga exhorted parents to have their babies vaccinated against measles twice, once at nine months, plus a booster shot at 15 months.

Appeal

When we published the appeal for Benjie Raypon last July 6, we collected P30,450 which we deposited directly with the SSPE Children Care Foundation current account maintained at the Bank of PI, Forbes Park branch, without indicating the donors' names, only the branches where they had made their deposits, like Paseo de Roxas (P10,000), Cubao-Aurora blvd. (P150), Megamall (P1,000), SFDM (P2,000), Laoag (P1,000), Angeles Main (P1,000), Los Baños (P1,000), Shaw blvd. (P1,000), Gandara (P500), Shangri-La Plaza (P2,000), Makati Main (P2,000), Commonwealth (P2,000), Escolta (P300), BPI Forbes (P5,000). And PDI received a donation of P1,500, turned over to us by Celine Madamba.

With the assistance of Dr. Salonga, Benjie was admitted to the PGH for the second time.

Stabilized

Presently, Benjie has been stabilized, thanks to strong antibiotics prescribed by his doctors. His wounds are beginning to heal.

The SSPE Children Care Foundation is appealing for more donations. Untreated, SSPE can lead to death. Donations may be deposited in the SSPE Children Care Foundation's Current Account 0291-0369-96 and Dollar Savings Account 0294-0271-49, both at the BPI Forbes Park branch, or email sspefdn@yahoo.com.

Phantom Planet's second album is easy to like

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

THE ALBUM opens with the foot-tapping, infectious "California." Written by Greenwald and Schwartzman, it's the band's most popular single at the moment, and no wonder. With its smooth mix of piano, guitar, and drums, and its up-tempo beat, this is the kind of song one finds oneself humming everywhere—without getting embarrassed about it.

Wistful

There's a bit of hand-clapping in the almost-as-catchy "Always On My Mind," and the happy-sad "Lonely Day" is given a refreshing feather-light treatment. "One Ray of Sunlight" is another favorite of ours. Wistful and just a tad melancholic ("If I get one ray of sunlight to hold in my hand, maybe we can be happy again/I'll try for one ray of sunlight to hold in my hand, and I'll guess that this isn't the end, maybe we can be happy again"), it somehow sounds like something Radiohead would have done—which brings us to the question of Phantom Planet's influences.

They readily admit to being influenced by such bands as Air, U2, the Flaming Lips, and Elvis Costello and the Attractions. We also detect strains of Weezer and '60s pop and rock 'n' roll through the Beatles and The Beach Boys.

Another Radiohead-esque track is the faintly critical "Turn Smile Shift Repeat," which is a commentary on today's corporate culture. It's also one of the album's smoothest-sounding songs. Still, despite these various and apparent influences the band manages to create its own sound, though it's a bit confused at the moment.

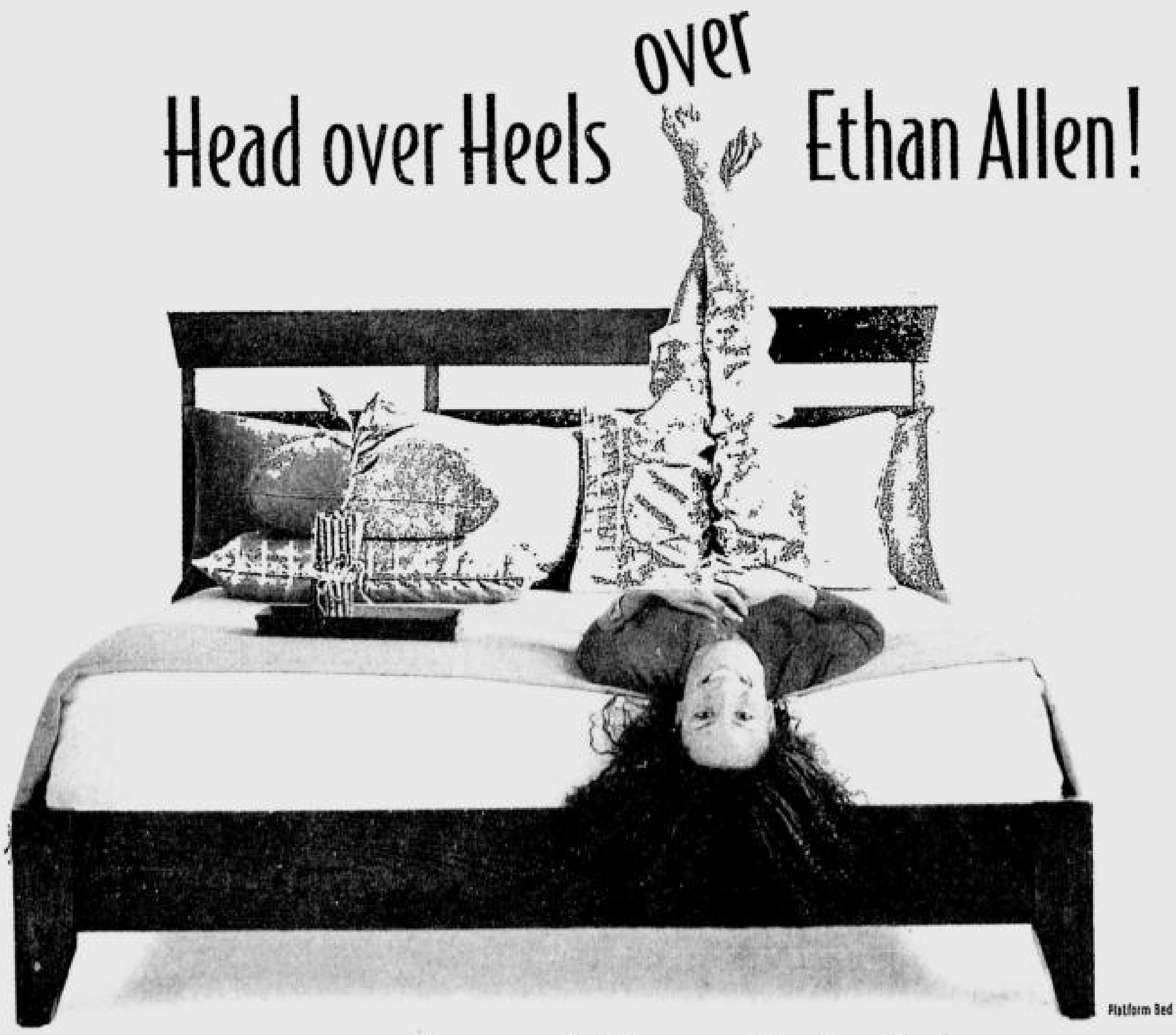
One song we didn't quite like, lyric-wise, is the hopelessly optimistic "Anthem." Greenwald writes: "Cause the whole world needs an anthem, and I'm trying to put the words where they belong/ Yeah, this whole world needs an anthem and I'm hoping everyone will sing along." Cute. But we must admit that it sounds better when he sings it.

Versatile

Most of the songs are written by Greenwald, who also does a pretty good job with the vocals. His singing is intense but controlled, and his voice is versatile and surprisingly adaptable.

All in all, we'd say that this band is already good, but they still have some way to go be

PHANTOM/F3



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SATURDAY *Special*

GRAMMER. "Frasier's" star is also up for an acting award.

'Frasier' becomes Emmy's most-honored show

LOS ANGELES—"Frasier" is in an Emmy class by itself.

The NBC comedy, breaking a record held by "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," became Emmy's most-honored show when it received three creative arts awards in a precursor to the Sept. 22 main event.

The trophies pushed "Frasier's" total since 1994 to 30, one more than the 29 garnered by Moore's comedy during its 1970-77 run. Other awards are possible for stars Kelsey Grammer and David Hyde Pierce in the upcoming ceremony.

Top series winner

"Six Feet Under," HBO's macabre funeral home drama, was the top series winner Saturday with five awards. The show received a leading 23 Emmy nominations in July.

Powered by "Six Feet Under," HBO captured the most awards, 16, followed by NBC with 15. ABC and Fox each received five trophies, while CBS received four.

Unexpected hit

"The Osbournes," MTV's unexpected hit about the homelife of rocker Ozzy Osbourne, was named best reality series.

Winners in the creative arts categories for the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences 54th annual primetime Emmy Awards are honored for technical and artistic achievement. Awards for acting, directing and writing will be presented in the main ceremony airing on NBC.

Highlights of the creative arts ceremony will be shown on E! Entertainment Television on Sept. 21. *AP*

Springsteen tops US charts

LOS ANGELES—Bruce Springsteen grabbed the top of the US pop charts recently with the debut of his somber, Sept. 11-influenced album, "The Rising," the first all-new recording with his E Street Band since 1984.

First week

The critically hailed LP sold about 525,000 copies in its first week in stores, Springsteen best album debut in at least a decade, his publicists said as the veteran rocker and his band prepares to launch a world tour at the Continental Airlines Arena in his native New Jersey.

Springsteen's publicity firm, Shore Fire Media, said "The Rising" also was expected to open at No. 1 in 10 other countries, including Canada, Britain, Germany, Spain and the four Nordic nations.

The album includes the tracks "Into the fire," which Springsteen wrote after more than 3,000 people died in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, and "My City of Ruins," an earlier song about down-on-its luck Asbury Park, New Jersey, that the musician dedicated to New York after Sept. 11.

Time magazine hailed the LP as "the first significant piece of pop art to respond to the events of that say."

SPRINGSTEEN. His best album debut in at least a decade.

Enthusiastic reviews

The record has received generally enthusiastic reviews and some critics already consider "The Rising" an early favorite for an "Album of the Year" prize when the Grammys are handed out in February.

"The Rising" supplanted a very different 9/11-inspired album at the top of the charts, knocking country singer Toby Keith's "Unleashed" to No. 6 in its second week of release, according to SoundScan. Keith's album, features the controversial song "Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue (The Angry American)," celebrating the US bombing of Afghanistan. *Reuters*

'Twilight Zone' continues to mesmerize viewers

By Nestor U. Torre

FROM 1959 to 1964, "The Twilight Zone" was a pioneering sci-fi anthology series on the CBS network that was popular with viewers. Its continuing appeal to viewers is even more impressive than its initial popularity. To this day, its 156 paranormal episodes are still being replayed on late-night TV (Ch. 23, Sundays, 10:30 p.m.).

When Rod Serling began conceptualizing the science fiction-fantasy anthology series, he had already established himself as a prime mover on TV, by writing such widely-praised dramas as "Patterns" and "Requiem for a Heavyweight." In fact, his scripts were often compared to those written by Tennessee Williams and Arthur Miller.

At first, CBS didn't know how to package Serling's "The Twilight Zone" series. To clear up the confusion, he wrote the pilot episode, "Where Is Everybody?," about a man who wanders through a deserted town. He turned out to be an astronaut suffering from hallucinations. The pilot episode set the tone for the entire series.

Ecstatic

If the TV moguls were confused, viewers were ecstatic. They readily appreciated what the show was trying to do: as it dealt with exotic characters and plotlines, it still had a lot to say about life and its endless possibilities.

Relatively few of its stories were set in alien worlds, or had extra-terrestrials in them. The settings were mundane, making the unusual plots all the more terrifying. Not all of the episodes had the famous "twist endings," either.

The common bonds in the 156 "journeys into strange lands" were the themes of justice and irony.

An episode's protagonist would not usually get what he expected, but rather what he truly deserved. Fate plays its tricks, but eventually, justice prevailed.

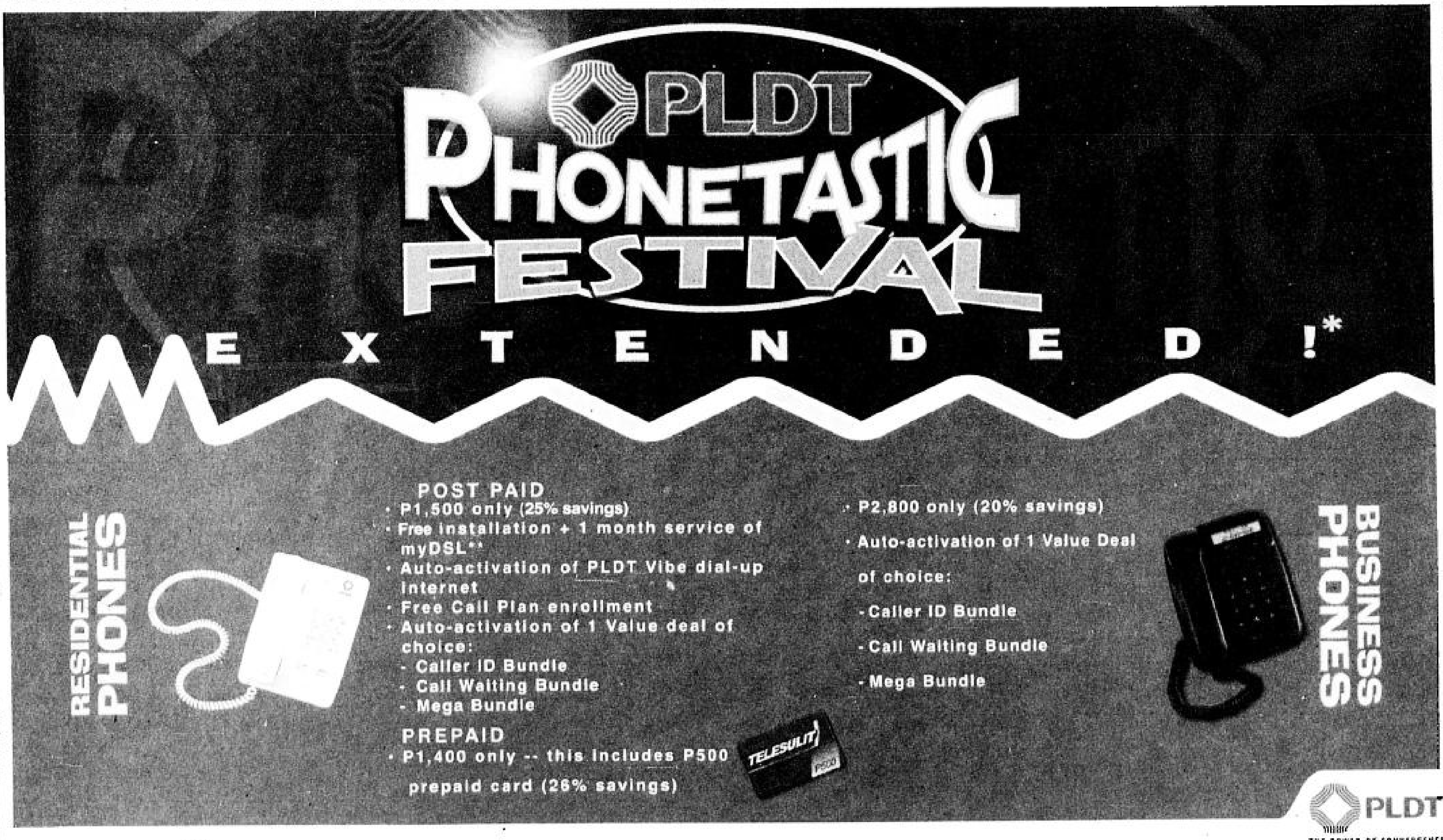
A YOUNG Robert Redford stars opposite Gladys Cooper in an episode titled "Nothing in the Dark."

Surprise twists

The series' signature surprise twists were the result of the show's ironic style. An example of this irony at work is found in the episode in which a woman battles creatures armed with ray guns: later, it's revealed that *they* are the earthlings, and she is the alien.

Other famous episodes: "Living Doll," in which Telly Savalas was terrorized by a children's toy. "In Praise of Pip," perhaps the first TV drama to deal with the Vietnam War. "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet," in which a disturbed man (William Shatner) saw a strange creature through the window of the airplane he was flying during a severe storm.

These and other episodes retain their unusual power more than 40 years after they were first telecast.



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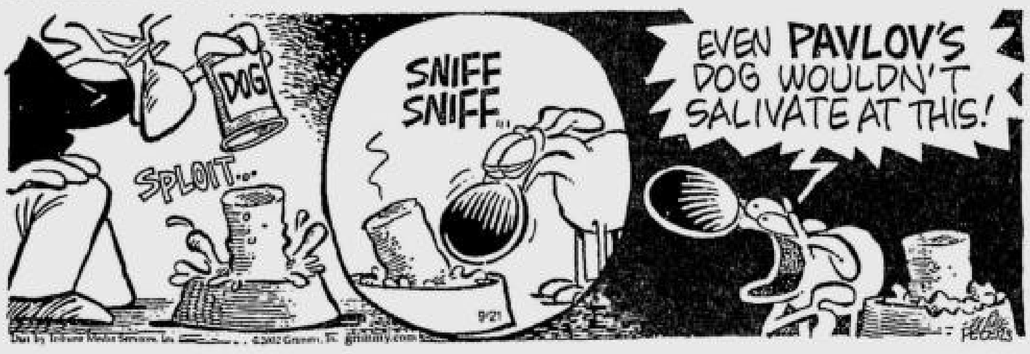
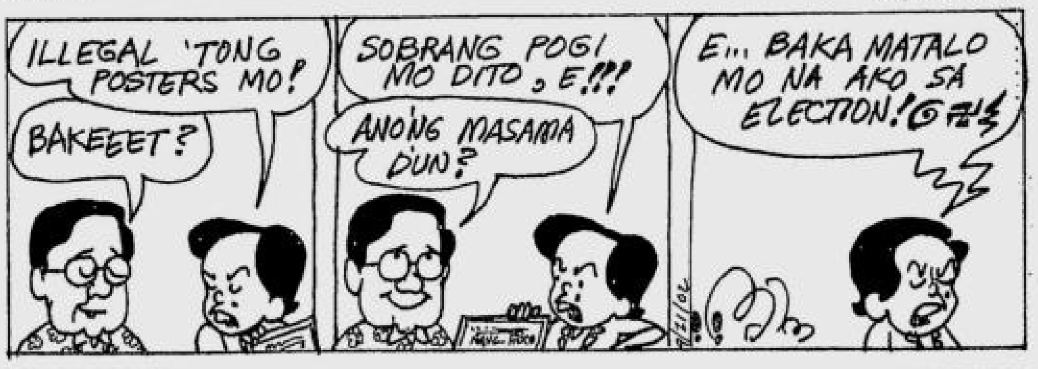
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2002

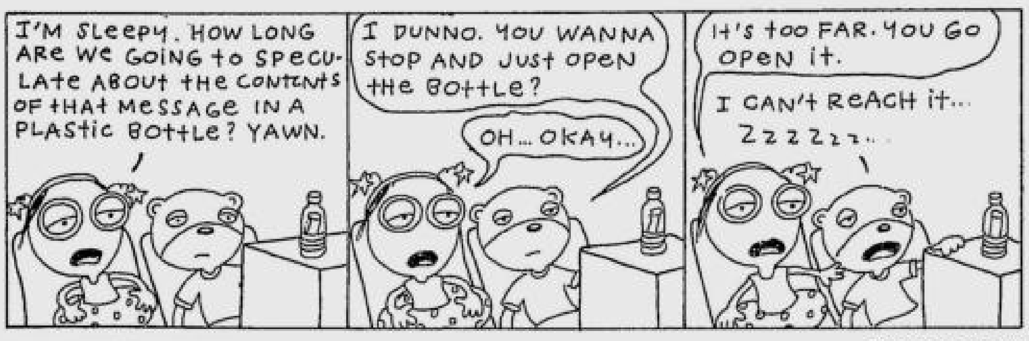
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


DOG
SPLOIT..
SNIFF SNIFF..
EVEN PAVLOV'S DOG WOULDN'T SALIVATE AT THIS!
9/21

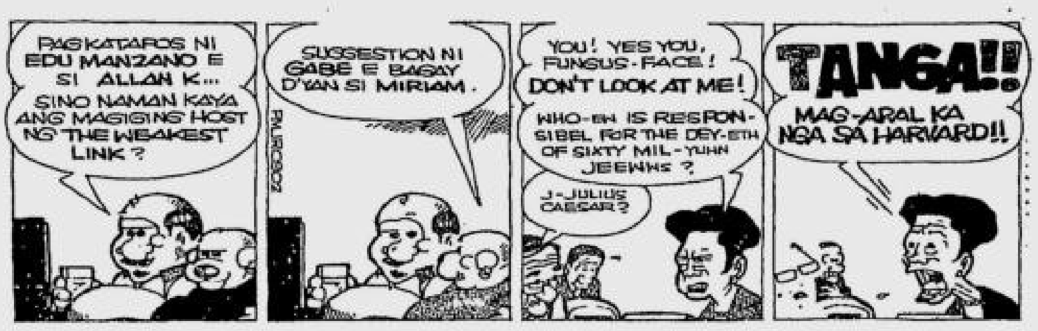
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


ILLEGAL 'TONG POSTERS MO!
BAKEEET?
SOBRANG POGI MO DITO, E!!!
ANO'NG MASAMA DUN?
E... BAKA MATALO MO NA AKO SA ELECTION!@#!$

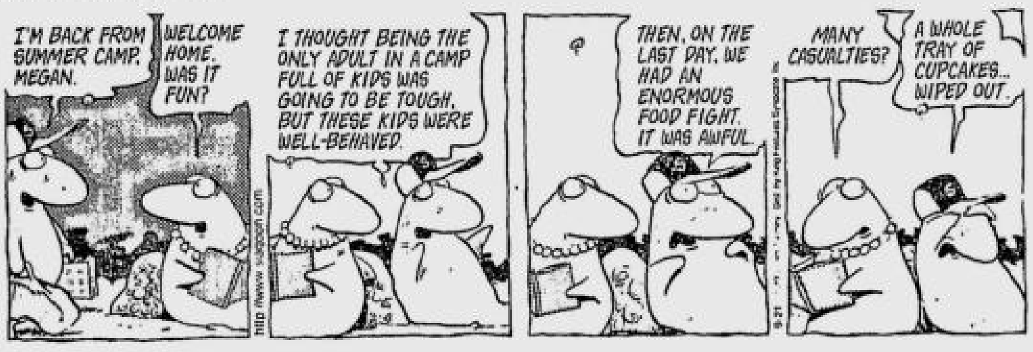
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'M SLEEPY. HOW LONG ARE WE GOING TO SPECULATE ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THAT MESSAGE IN A PLASTIC BOTTLE? YAWN.
I DUNNO. YOU WANNA STOP AND JUST OPEN THE BOTTLE?
OH... OKAY...
IT'S TOO FAR. YOU GO OPEN IT.
I CAN'T REACH IT...
ZZZZZZ..

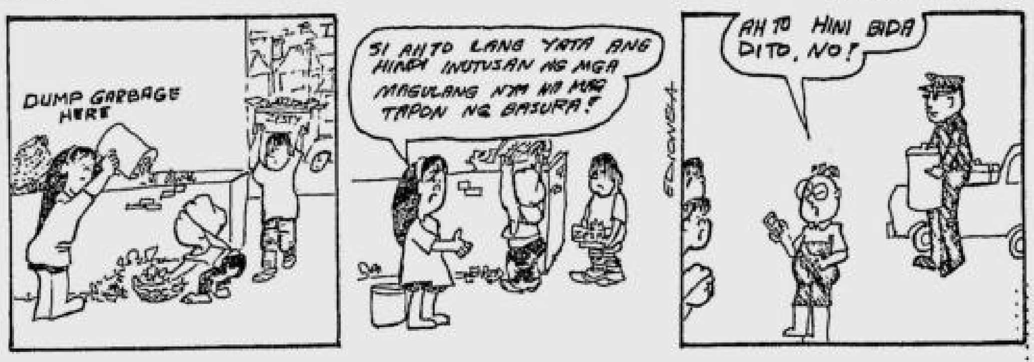
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


PAGKATAPOS NI EDU MANZANO E SI ALLAN K... SINO NAMAN KAYA ANG MAGIGING HOST NG THE WEAKEST LINK?
SUGGESTION NI GABE E BAGAY D'YAN SI MIRIAM.
YOU! YES YOU, FUNGUS-FACE! DON'T LOOK AT ME!
WHO-EH IS RESPON-SIBEL FOR THE DEY-ETH OF SIXTY MIL-YUHN JEEWHS?
J-JULIUS CAESAR?
TANGA!!
MAG-ARAL KA NGA SA HARVARD!!

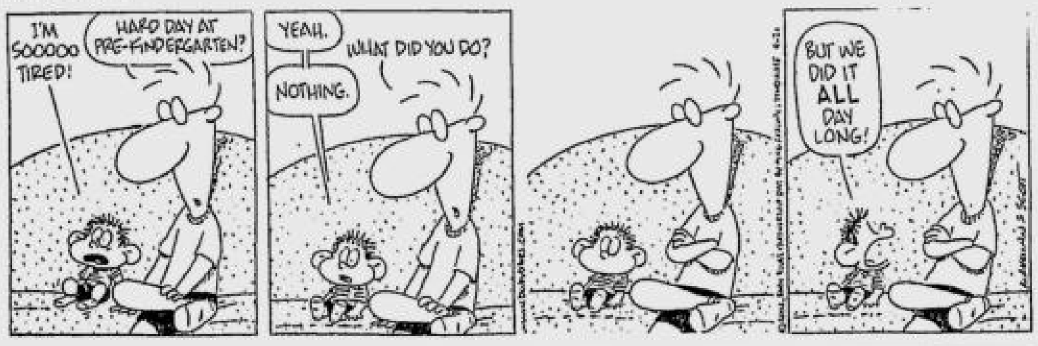
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


I'M BACK FROM SUMMER CAMP, MEGAN.
WELCOME HOME. WAS IT FUN?
I THOUGHT BEING THE ONLY ADULT IN A CAMP FULL OF KIDS WAS GOING TO BE TOUGH, BUT THESE KIDS WERE WELL-BEHAVED.
?
THEN, ON THE LAST DAY, WE HAD AN ENORMOUS FOOD FIGHT. IT WAS AWFUL.
MANY CASUALTIES?
A WHOLE TRAY OF CUPCAKES... WIPED OUT.
http://www.slagoon.com
9-21

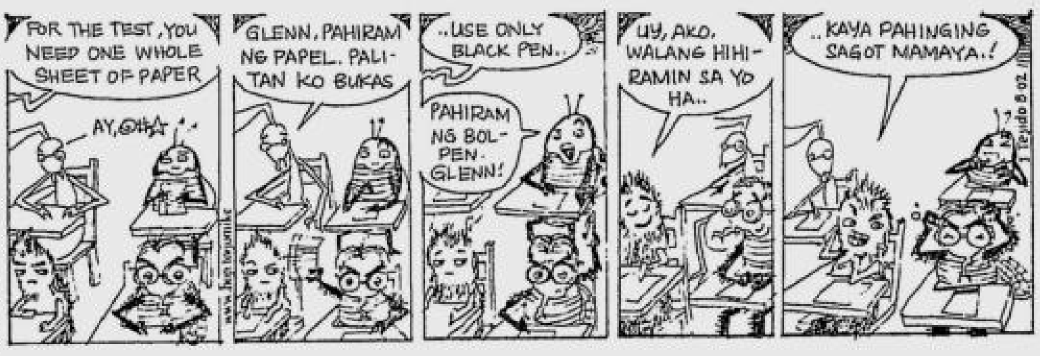
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


DUMP GARBAGE HERE
SI AHTO LANG YATA ANG HINDI INUTUSAN NG MGA MAGULANG N'YA NA MAG TAPON NG BASURA!
AH TO HINI BIDA DITO, NO?

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


I'M SOOOOO TIRED!
HARD DAY AT PRE-KINDERGARTEN?
YEAH.
WHAT DID YOU DO?
NOTHING.
BUT WE DID IT ALL DAY LONG!

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


FOR THE TEST, YOU NEED ONE WHOLE SHEET OF PAPER
AY, GHA☆
GLENN, PAHIRAM NG PAPEL. PALITAN KO BUKAS
..USE ONLY BLACK PEN..
PAHIRAM NG BOLPEN. GLENN!
UY, AKO, WALANG HIHIRAMIN SA YO HA..
..KAYA PAHINGING SAGOT MAMAYA..!
Tejido 8.02

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Stephen King, Bill Murray, Ricki Lake, Faith Hill

Happy Birthday: Your creative flare will take over, leading you into new projects that will open your mind to new possibilities. This can be one of your best years if you allow yourself the freedom to be who you are and develop your vision. Don't let yourself get run down because of your tendency to worry about everything. Your numbers are 9, 15, 22, 34, 42, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep your financial situation to yourself. Don't let anyone talk you into lending them money or donating to a group that you know nothing about.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may meet a lot of new people if you join a group, but be discerning. Pick people who are legitimate and interested in partnering with you either professionally or personally.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Empty promises may lead you in the wrong direction. Take your time and get everything in writing before you proceed. If you are smart about the way you deal with others you will stay ahead of the game.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put your time and effort into working on creative hobbies that will give you great satisfaction. A personal encounter will develop through an individual you befriend today. Don't be shy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Shopping will lead to some great buys as well as running into someone you haven't seen for a while. Make sure that you have special plans for this evening. Don't waste your passionate mood.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will be inclined to focus on your assets and how you can build your portfolio. You will not be able to talk someone into lending you money. Fend for yourself if you find that your cash flow is paralyzed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A partnership may weigh heavily on your mind today. Talk to the person who has been causing you the most grief and try to get him to meet you halfway. You can make some wonderful changes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will have a creative outlook, which should help you find clever and workable solutions. You should look into ways of exploiting your obvious talents. Music will be a creative interest you should pursue.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will be looking for adventure, excitement and entertainment. Jump at the chance to do a little traveling. You will have more fun when you are in unfamiliar surroundings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take care of family matters today. Your stability will put others at ease, but it will also contribute to your being left with all the responsibility.

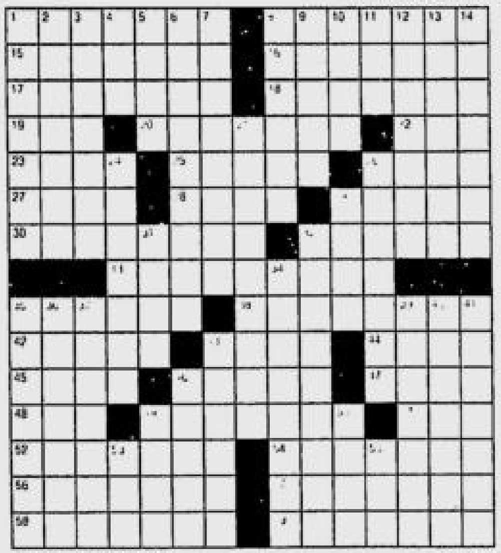
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Getting together with friends or neighbors will bring you great satisfaction and plenty to think about. New partnerships can form, but make sure that everyone is putting in just as much as you are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be sensitive to what others say, making it difficult for you to see things clearly. Sit back and let things unfold naturally and you will discover that nothing is as bad as it appears.

Birthday Baby: You will be intense, intuitive and interesting. You will have an air of mystery that will draw others to your side. You will be convincing, making it easy for you to influence others.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



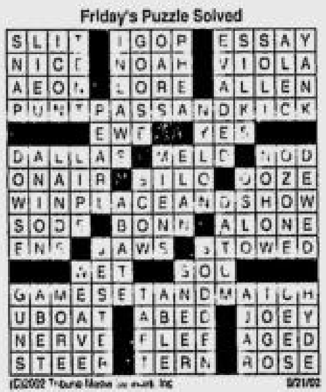
By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

9/21/02

ACROSS
1 Tiered bric-a-brac shelves
8 Render unnecessary
15 Session musicians
16 Walter of "The Westerner"
17 Mike or Helmut
18 Engaging in merry pranks
19 Scrimp
20 "The Lord of the Rings," e.g.
22 Deface
23 Dweeb
25 Serving perfectly
26 Palm starch
27 Algonquian language
28 Party faction
29 Gluts
30 Putting to the test
32 Deceivers
33 Elongated, scaleless marine fish
35 Powerful
38 Countrified
42 Harass relentlessly
43 Electrical cable
44 Principal church area
45 Charitable donation
46 Trite
47 Olympic diving champ Louganis
48 Pirate's drink
49 Mixes
51 Bikini part
52 Tenant farmer
54 Winter craft
56 Devour with greed
57 Golfer Curtis
58 Teased
59 Sleeping sickness carriers

DOWN
1 Intrinsic nature
2 Hearts and watches
3 Clings
4 Highly valued person
5 Radiate
6 Sketching once again
7 Alluring
8 Rectangular
9 Fort __, NC
10 Selfsame
11 Squid's defense
12 Liven up
13 Woodland songbird
14 Occupy completely
21 Tarrying
24 Church leaders
26 Young tree
29 Tallow base
31 "__ Cassius has a lean and hungry look"
32 Reverses an option
34 Advocate of country life
35 Hone
36 Part of TNT
37 Search thoroughly
39 Old-fashioned copies
40 Middle of the road
41 Pope's emissaries
43 Wished for
46 Self-indulgent spree
49 Type of loamy fertilizer
50 Withered
53 Turf
55 Belfry occupant, perhaps

Friday's Puzzle Solved



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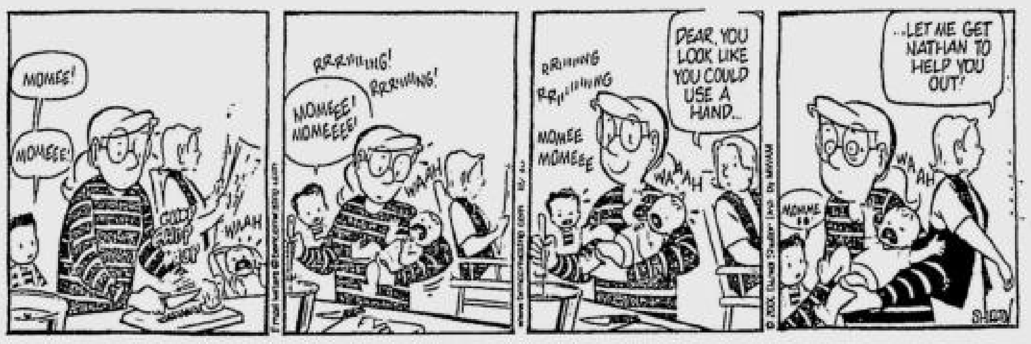
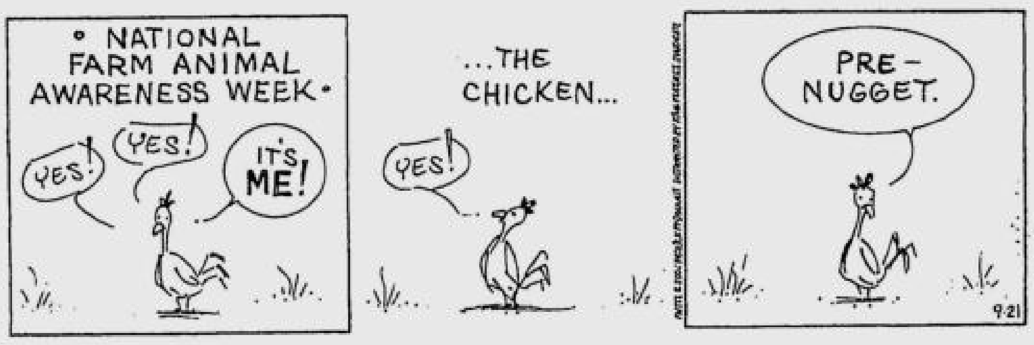
9/21/02

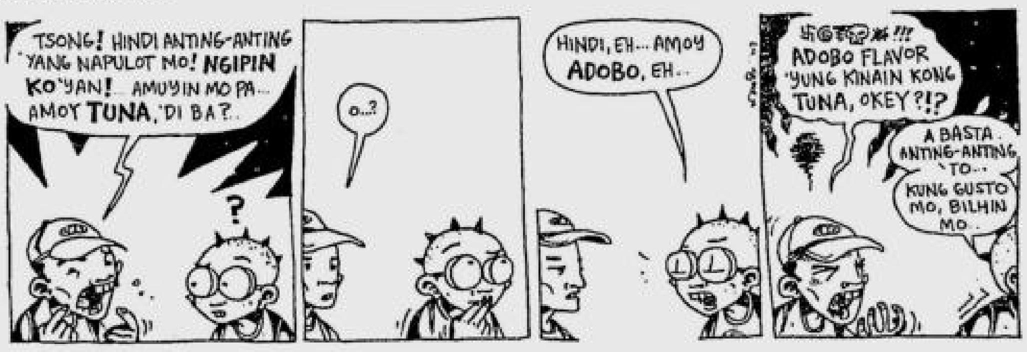
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


MOMEE!
MOMEEE!
RRRIIIIING!
RRRIIIING!
MOMEEE! MOMEEEE!
WAAH
RRIIIING
RRIIIIING
MOMEE MOMEEE
DEAR, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE A HAND...
WAAAH
..LET ME GET NATHAN TO HELP YOU OUT!
MOMME
SHELTON

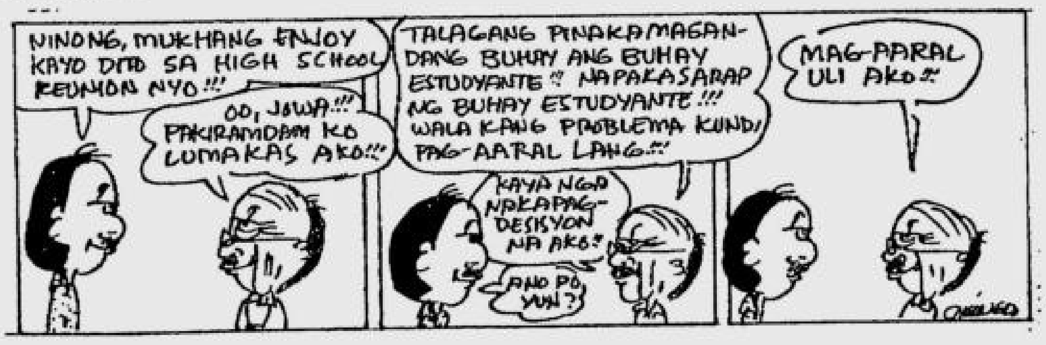
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


• NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL AWARENESS WEEK •
YES!
YES!
IT'S ME!
...THE CHICKEN...
YES!
PRE-NUGGET.
9·21

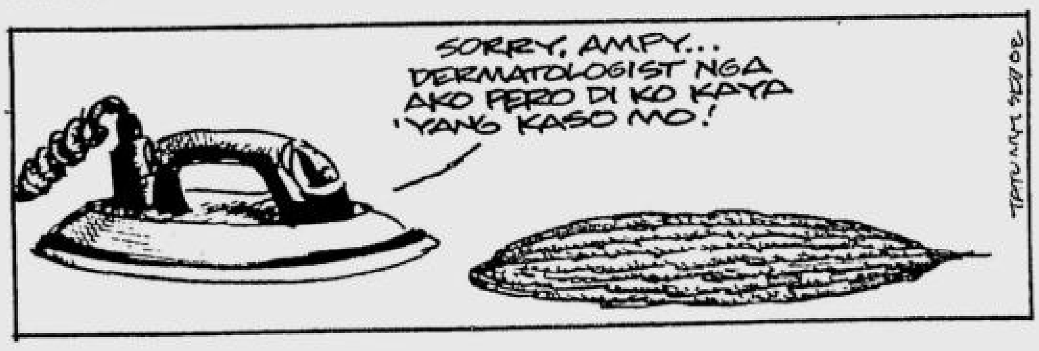
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG! HINDI ANTING-ANTING 'YANG NAPULOT MO! NGIPIN KO'YAN!.. AMUYIN MO PA.. AMOY TUNA, 'DI BA?..
?
O..?
HINDI, EH... AMOY ADOBO, EH..
!@#$%!!! ADOBO FLAVOR 'YUNG KINAIN KONG TUNA, OKEY?!?
A BASTA ANTING-ANTING 'TO.. KUNG GUSTO MO, BILHIN MO..

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NINONG, MUKHANG ENJOY KAYO DITO SA HIGH SCHOOL REUNION NYO!!!
OO, JOWA!!! PAKIRAMDAM KO LUMAKAS AKO!!!
TALAGANG PINAKAMAGANDANG BUHAY ANG BUHAY ESTUDYANTE!! NAPAKASARAP NG BUHAY ESTUDYANTE!!! WALA KANG PROBLEMA KUNDI PAG-AARAL LANG!!!
KAYA NGA NAKAPAG-DESISYON NA AKO!
ANO PO YUN?
MAG-AARAL ULI AKO!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SORRY, AMPY... DERMATOLOGIST NGA AKO PERO DI KO KAYA 'YANG KASO MO!
TATUM 9.21.02

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+

POMEGRANATE
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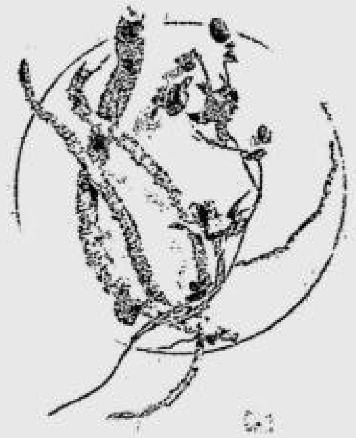
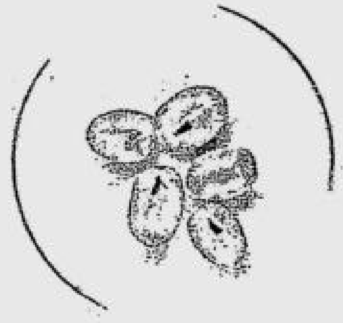
+



DANSHEN
Tightens Skin

+



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+

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let's talk

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Ogie Alcasid tops line-up of Viva concerts

By Remy M. Umerez

THE LAST quarter of the year ushers in a big demand for live concerts, and Viva Concerts has lined up a few.

ALCASID. 14 years in show biz.

Hitmaker

First on the list is a show titled "O.A. Sa Hits" at the Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 4. O.A. stands for hitmaker Ogie Alcasid and it will be his first major concert at the Big Dome.

Ogie says he's nervous and excited at the same time. The musical event marks his 14th year in show business.

"O.A. Sa Hits" will re-establish Ogie as a live performer after a long absence and after composing a string of hits.

Some of the songs Ogie popularized are "Nandito Ako," "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang," "Mahal Kita, Walang Iba," "Dito Sa Puso Ko," and "Sa Kanya."

Movie themes

His original songs which became movie themes ("Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," "Pangako," "Hanggang Ngayon") plus the success of his latest album "A Better Man," have paved the way for his big concert next month.

"A Better Man" produced the hit singles "Ikaw Sana" and "Hanggang Ngayon," a duet with Regine Velasquez who will definitely be one of Ogie's guests in the concert, along with Freestyle and Side A. Call 413-2572.

Oct. 4 will also gather three of the biggest names in Pinoy music in a series of Hitmakers concerts at the Music Museum. This is the first time for Rico J. Puno, Hadji Alejandro and Rey Valera to appear together in one show and revive the good memories of the '70s.

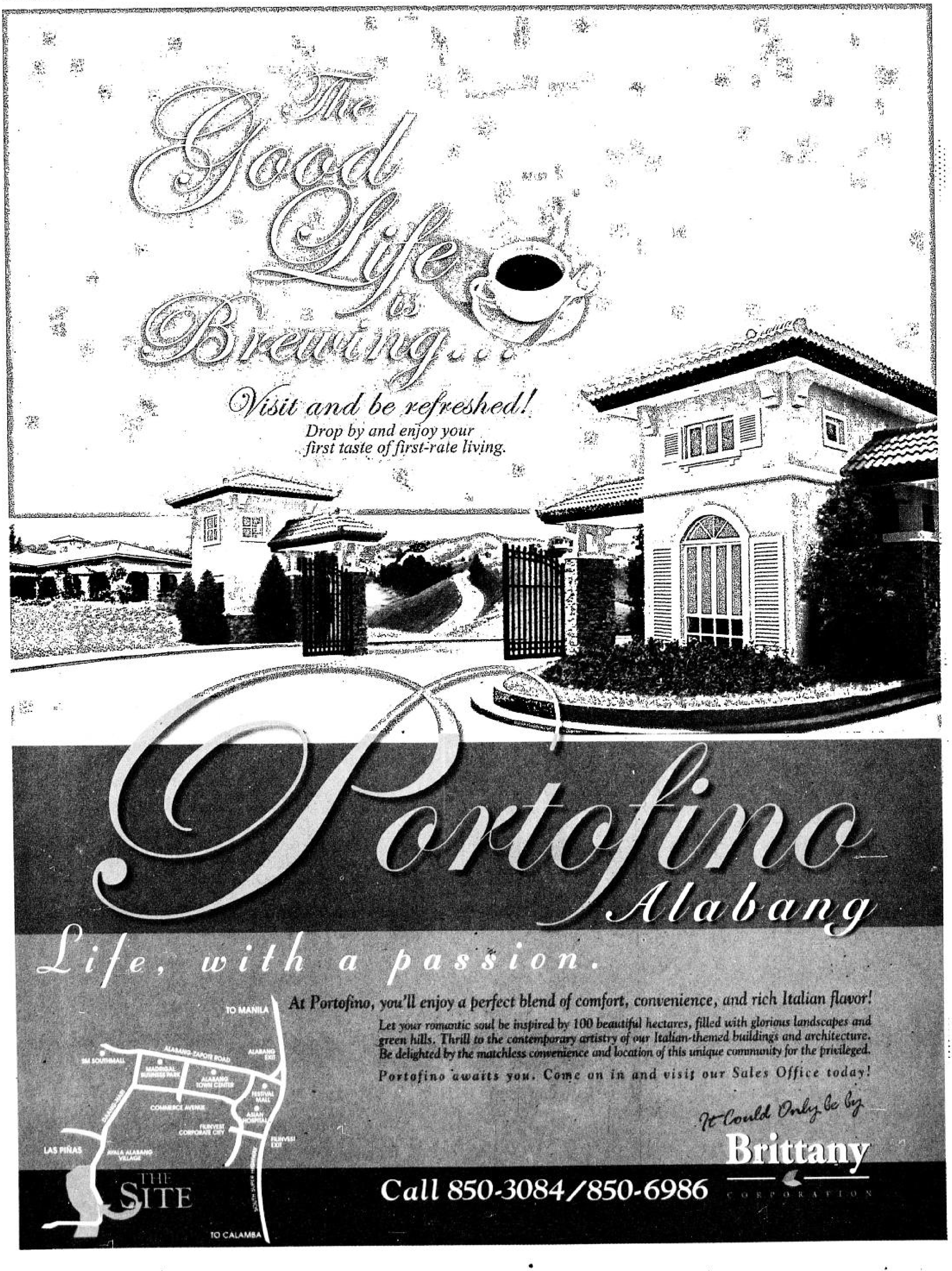
Grand prize

Hadji was a member of the Circus Band. He was the interpreter of the Metropop-winning composition of Ryan Cayabyab, "Kay Ganda ng Ating Musika" which also won the grand prize at the the Seoul Song Festival in 1989.

Valera is a singer-composer whose biggest sellers like "Pangako Sa 'Yo" and "Maging Sino Ka Man" have remained huge favorites until today.

Rico was propelled to stardom by his Taglish version of "The Way We Were" in 1974. More hits followed in the next 20 years. Some of those hits were composed by Valera.

"The Greatest Hits Series" goes onstage on Oct. 4, 5 and 19 at 8 p.m.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Junior INQUIRER
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2002 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 6, NUMBER 50
HTTP://YOU.INQ7.NET/JI

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Pasay's 'Junior PPO'

What if you got a chance to train with the very best? For young musicians from Pasay City, it's a dream come true.

By Eline Santos

GUESS what? For the very first time, our national orchestra has chosen several young musicians to train with them.

Fifteen young people, all from Pasay City, get to rub elbows with seasoned musicians from the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra. And 13 of them come from the same band. That's a big thing, considering the whopping 65 Pasay City kids who auditioned for the scholarships.

PASAY'S PRIDE. Presenting PPO's new music scholars.
BETOY JOHNSON

A Talented Bunch

All 13 kids from Barangay 164's Millenium Band who auditioned for the PPO scholarships made it. They are Engelvhil Aniscol, 15 (flute); Joemarie D. Bug-atan, 16 (clarinet); Melvin Brian Cariaga, 15 (French horn); Nikko M. Capon, 16 (tuba); Crisarmaine A. Culler, 10 (trumpet); Ma. Catherine De Vera, 11 (clarinet); Teddy Agustine Florendo, 12 (drums); Ma. Shella R. Gregorio, 11 (trumpet); Carlourd Stephin Mutas, 14 (French horn); Joseph Ryan B. Obsequio, 16 (trombone); Andreau James A. Samillano, 14 (piano); Michael Anthony Sandoval, 10 (clarinet); and Andrew Santos, 13 (clarinet).

Millenium Band is a community band made up from kids from different schools in Pasay City. But most of them are ordinary kids who leave near each other in Barangay 164.

Sisters Agnes Dominique Sarreal, 12 and Angelie Celeste, 10 are the only scholarship grantees who are not members of Millenium.

Angelie Rocks

Angelie, who plays the clarinet, says she feels happy and is "very proud of myself."

During the auditions, she wasn't even too nervous. "I believe in myself," she pipes. "Whether I get the scholarship or not, what's important is to be able to show my talent." Her sister, Agnes, a grade 6 student at the Philippine Normal University, plays the french horn.

Pasay's/ p. 2

Pasay's 'Junior PPO'

(from page 1)

Bravo Millenium!

"I'm very pleased," says Isaac Cariaga, Millenium Band's *maestro*. "It's proof that they will continue to do well."

The proud conductor works very hard at training his young charges and is also happy that one of the band's former members, Jackie Rose Obsequio, is currently doing well as a music scholar of the University of Sto. Tomas.

And if that isn't good enough, his son Melvin Brian also made it as a PPO scholar.

Happy Scholars

Engelvhil, a junior at the Pasay City East High School, feels happy and proud about the scholarship. He says he only found out about the band by chance.

"I saw them practicing on the street," he says. "I got interested so I joined." Engelvhil hopes to "be a better flutist" after the PPO scholarship.

Nikko, a senior at the Pasay City East High School, had no plans of joining a band. But he found himself joining the band after his friends egged him to join. Once he was in though, he grew to like it. He's been playing the trombone and the tuba for four years.

The Teachers

The lessons will start summer next year and will last for one year. They will be learning under PPO musicians Ramon Alcantara for horn, Fredeline Parin for trumpet, Ariel Sta. Ana for clarinet, Leodivino Roque for timpani and percussion, Rosemari Poblete for flute, Jose Jerry Samonte for bassoon, Reginald and Olga Pineda for violin, and Rolando Samonte for trombone.

"The scholarship may be extended for another year, " says Irene Rada of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. "Their dream is to have their own mini-PPO in Pasay City."

CASIO • JUNIORINQUIRER

Search for 'Rrific Kids

3 Best Featured Kids For 2002

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honor list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific or know someone who is, just fill up the nomination form found in Kids R 'Rrific Page & Send to:

JUNIORINQUIRER
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
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1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured in the page, will get a FREE Junior Inquirer – CASIO EMI T-Shirt & a P300 DISCOUNT VOUCHER

PLUS! At the end of the year, Top 3 'Rrfic Kids for 2002 will be chosen & shall bring home a

CASIO KEYLIGHTING KEYBOARD
Junior Inquirer
Kid 'r' 'rrific
CASIO
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LK-5

I AM ONE NOTE. The Pasay City West High School Angklung Group plays for the PPO during the granting of 15 PPO scholarships at the Araneta Coliseum.

BETOY JOHNSON

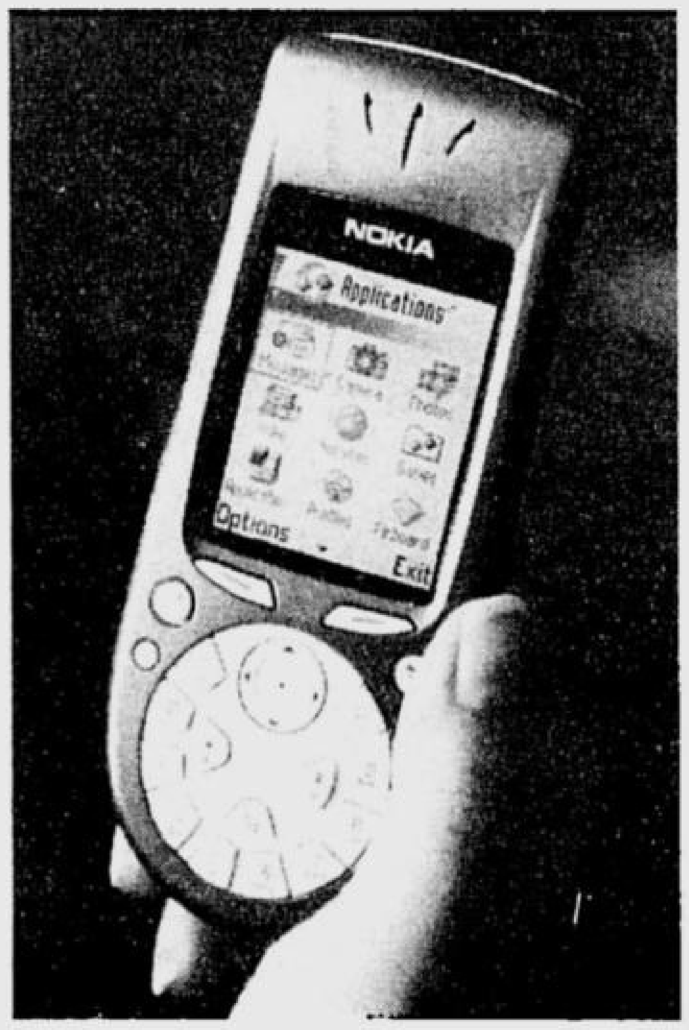
World Scope

Utica, Montana
Hong Kong, China
Dhaka, Bangladesh

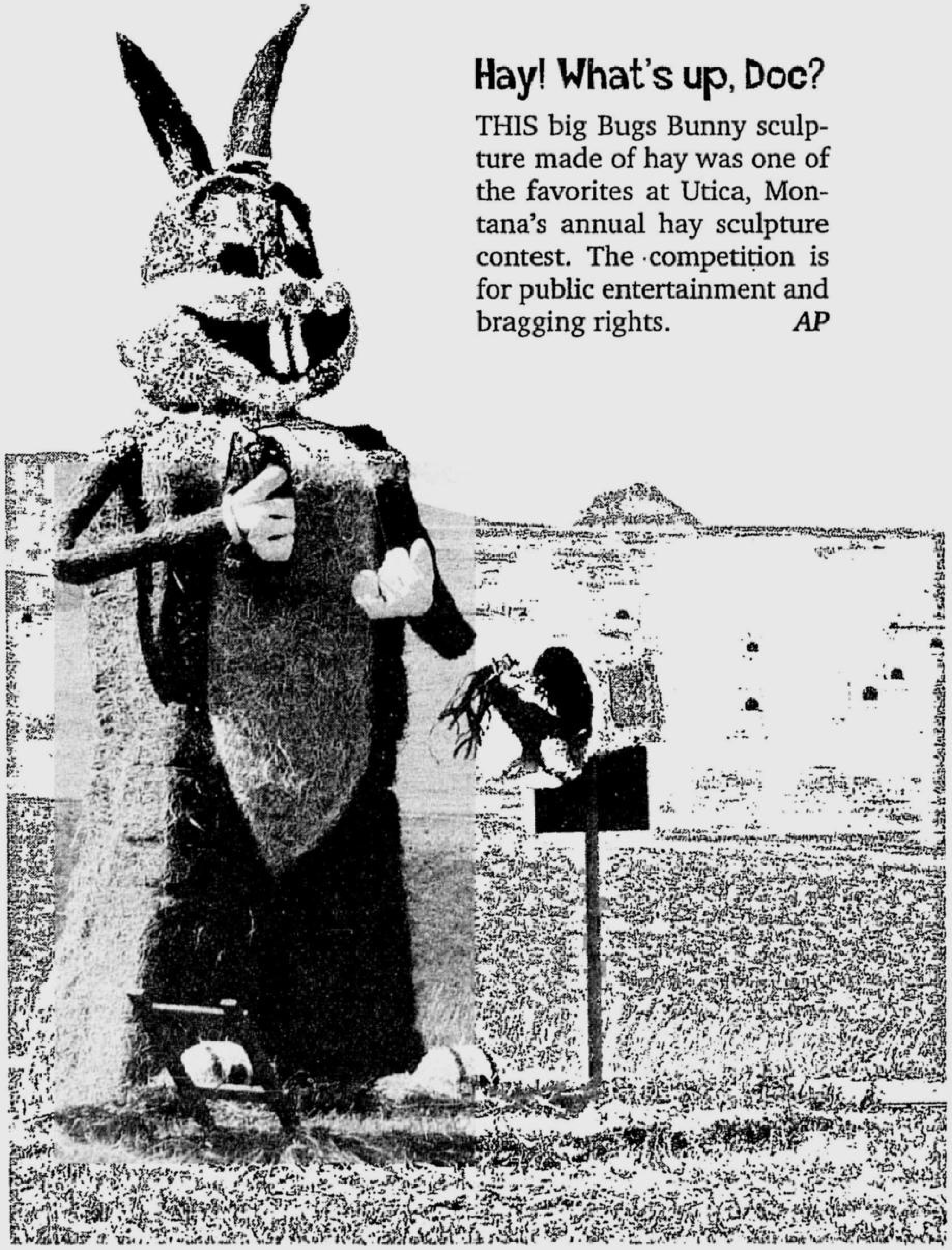
Time on Exhibit

WOMEN walk past a poster of timepieces at the Hong Kong Watch and Clock Fair at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The fair is the largest of its kind in Asia with 735 exhibitors from 15 countries or regions. Different kinds of old and new watches and clocks were on display. *AFP*

Hi-tech Handheld



THE new Nokia 3650 model, with a color screen, features a camera and video player with the possibility of extended memory for storage of pictures, games and other files. The new model provides users with multimedia messaging and video clips, as well as access to the Internet and e-mail services. *AP*

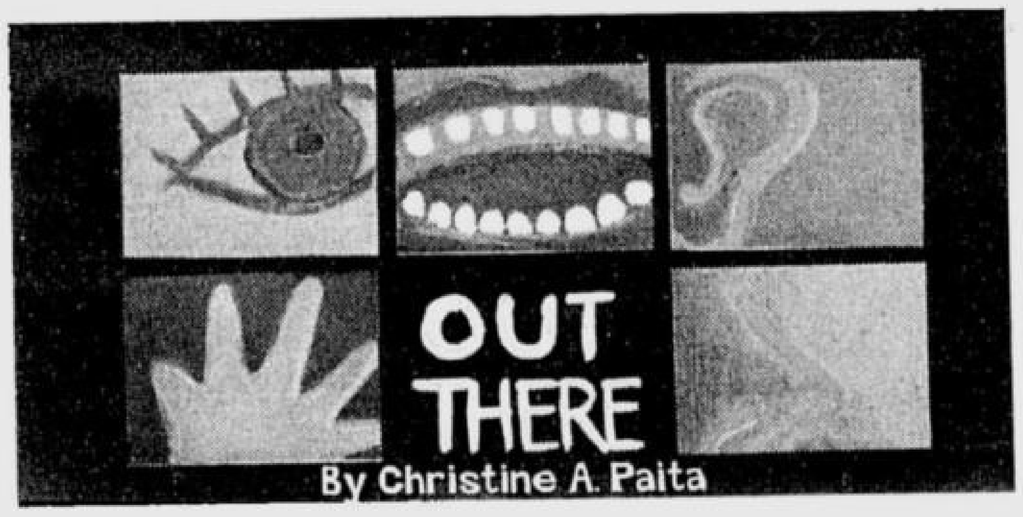


Hay! What's up, Doc?

THIS big Bugs Bunny sculpture made of hay was one of the favorites at Utica, Montana's annual hay sculpture contest. The competition is for public entertainment and bragging rights. *AP*

Janmastami

WITH coloring on their face and wearing traditional clothes, a Bangladeshi child dressed as Hindu lord Krishna (center) and friends take part in a rally to observe Janmastami, the birthday of lord Krishna, in Dhaka, on Aug. 31. In this predominantly Muslim country where Hinduism makes up 11 percent of the total population, millions of Hindus celebrated the birthday of lord Krishna. *AFP*



Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Place

MULTIMEDIA HAVEN. The Kid's Closet, a haven for video and technology gadgets enthusiasts, is now open for the young and young at heart. Kids can choose from a vast collection of playstations, gameboys, computer and all other kinds of multimedia toys. What's more, Kid's Closet offers an extensive collection of kiddie movies on original video and DVD as well as the most popular nursery rhymes and other songs on CD. Visit The Kid's Closet at Astroplus, The Podium, ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

Play

SNOW WHITE. Repertory Philippines brings "Snow White" on stage on Oct. 26. When you buy a ticket from the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) you help the PAWS Animal Rehabilitation Center. PAWS, through the help of people and organizations, will soon open the very first animal shelter in the country. This is your chance to help make a difference for the unwanted animals. Contact PAWS at 725-7060, 724-6395 or 0917-8315970. You can also email your phone numbers to paws_hq@compass.com.ph, so a volunteer near you can deliver the tickets at your doorstep. Hurry, tickets will be available until Sept. 26 only.

Contests

CHRISTMAS CARD. Get into the Christmas spirit! Sacred Heart School invites kids ages 3-12 to join its On-the-spot Christmas Card Drawing Contest. The contest will be held on Sept. 28, from 1-3 p.m., at the San Lorenzo Village covered court, #19 San Lorenzo Drive, San Lorenzo Village, Makati City. For information and registration, please call SHS in any of the following branches: Malabon, 447-3371; San Lorenzo, 815-3058; Shangri-La Edsa, Mandaluyong City 636-1227; Forbes Park, Makati City, 840-5493; Caloocan, 334-1721, Glorietta 3, Makati City 893-9079, and Sun Valley, Parañaque, 776-0312.

QUIZ BEE. Watch elementary, high school and college students as they battle it out in the 23rd National Super Quiz Bee Championships, ongoing every Saturday in different venues in Metro Manila until Dec. 7, 2002. Participants in each level will compete on the following categories: General Information and International Affairs for the Tertiary Level; Science and Technology for the Junior Level; and Makabayan and Mathematics for the Elementary Level. Cheer for your school reps on the following quiz bee events: Division of Manila and Division of Pasay City on Sept. 21 at SM City Manila; Division of Quezon City and Division of Makati City on Oct. 5 at the Ali Mall Center in Cubao; Division of Pasig, Marikina, San Juan and Division of Mandaluyong City on Oct. 19 at Robinsons Galleria; Division of Caloocan City and Division of Valenzuela, Malabon and Navotas on Oct. 25 at SM City Edsa; and Regional Finals on Nov. 8 at Robinsons Place, Manila. Admission is free. For more info on the schedule of district, division, and regional eliminations nationwide, call 712-0682 or 410-1285, email quizbee@edsamail.com.ph, or log on to www.quizbee.com.

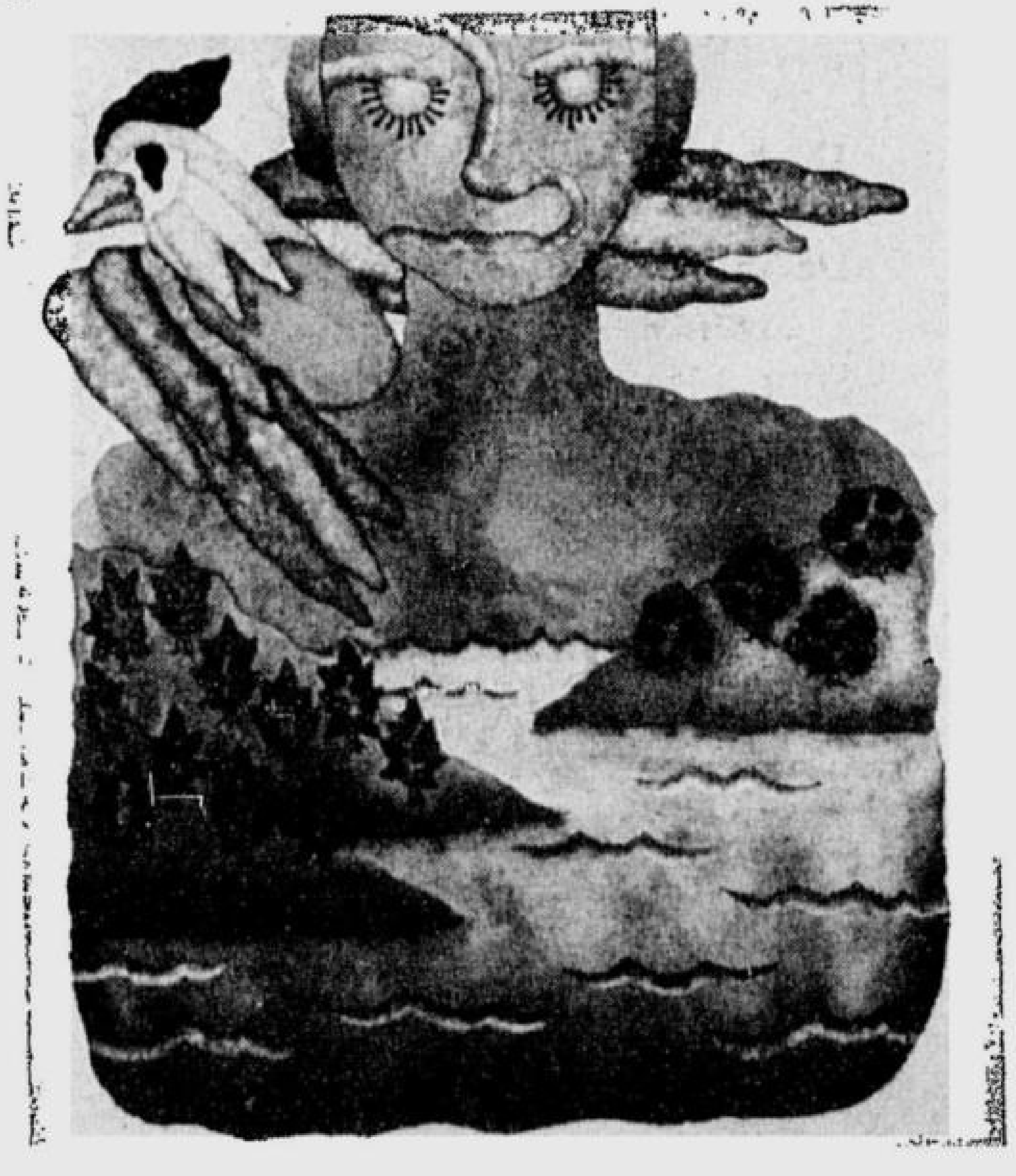
SCI-ARTISTS. The Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology is inviting kids ages 10-13 to join its Sci-Artists' Competition with the theme "Batang Agham sa Bagong Milenyo." Kids' artworks must interpret this theme focusing on "Science as a way of life: Energy and Environment." Use of indigenous materials is also encouraged. Interested applicants may register now and get their application forms at the Department of Education and Department of Science and Technology regional/provincial centers and division offices. Deadline for submission of entries is on January 26, 2003. For details, contact the National Secretariat c/o Sionie and Maureen at (02) 536-3092, telefax 525-8418, or by email at sci-art@philonlone.com.

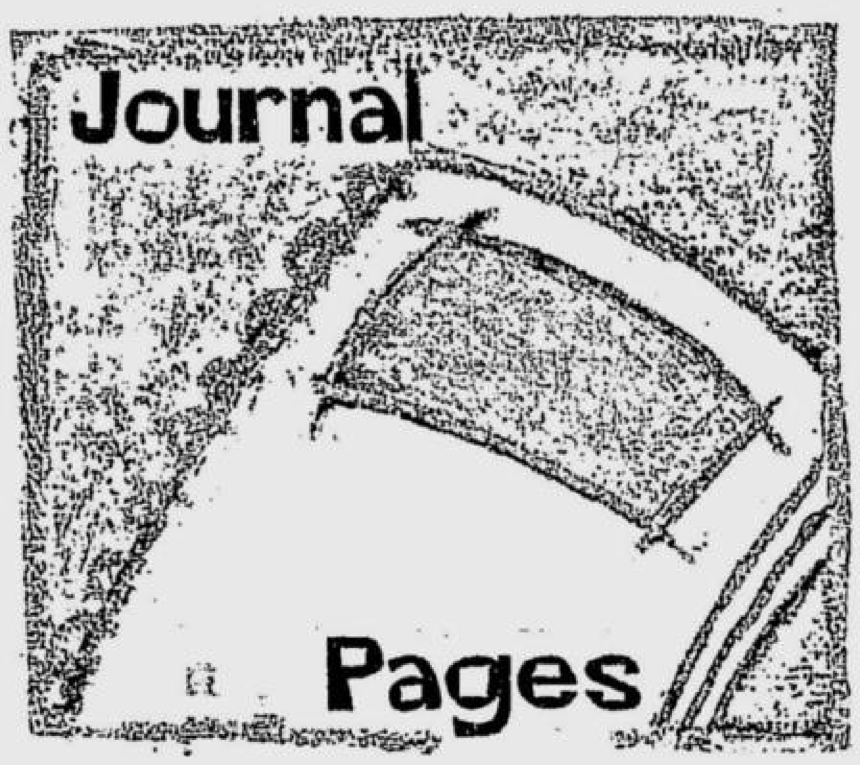
ESSAY-WRITING. The Intellectual Property Office invites all elementary, high school, and college students to join its 2nd Nationwide Essay-writing Contest with the theme: "What does intellectual property mean to our national development?" High school and elementary students may write their entries either in English or Filipino. Send entries to The Director; Documentation, Information, and Technology Transfer Bureau; Intellectual Property Office, 351 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, or by email to DITTB@ipophil.gov.ph. Deadline for submission of entries is on Sept. 30. For inquiries, please call 752-5450 to 65 locals 204 and 207, or log on to http://ipophil.gov.ph.

STAMP DESIGN. Join the 2003 Stamp Design contest sponsored by the Korean Postal Administration. The contest has two categories: youth category and general category. Students 18 years old and below may join in the youth category, with the themes "My Own Stamp: Birthday" and "My Own Stamp: Public Relations." Application forms may be downloaded from www.koreanpost.go.kr. Entries should be mounted on an A4-sized hardboard with the application form attached at the back and mailed not later than Sept. 24, 2002 to: the Registration Secretariat, Postage Stamp and Philately Division, Bureau of Posts, Korean Post, 154-1 Scorin-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul 110-110, Korea.

Exhibit

MGA ANAK NG ARAW. Ruben De Jesus' illustrations for the book "Mga Anak ng Araw" by Rene Villanueva is on exhibit until Sept. 26 at the Vargas Museum inside the University of the Philippines campus in Quezon City. Activities during the exhibition will include storytelling sessions on Sept. 25, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. For details, please call Linda Pabico at 928-1927 or 920-5301 loc. 7407 or email vargasmuseum@yahoo.com.





One With Nature

By Luigi Baroa Manzo
Grade 5-EDSA
Ateneo de Manila Grade School

LEAVES were falling. The trees were swaying like choreographed ballerinas. Cool and refreshing breezes came with sweet fragrances that clothed me all over as I walked past the moss-covered woodland.

Beams of light peeked through lush green waving leaves, inviting me to join their graceful dance. I stood by an opening where there was a clear view of the sky.

I was amazed at its calm vastness. The clouds were puffy and candy-like. They were constantly bumping into each other like playing toddlers.

I moved on to a small pond filled with fresh water. It was alive with the movements of colorful fishes with schools of their young.

I walked on into what seemed like a trail surrounded by thick bushes. It led me into a meadow full of flowers in full bloom, painting the everything with their stunning pastels.

Whoosh!

I turned and saw an eagle swooping down on a nest, her young fledglings awaiting her return.

I lay down on the flowers. I breathed in and etched all these beautiful images forever in my mind. I said aloud, "This is God! God is beautiful. This is Him in all His splendor and glory. These are the miracles He created. Life. I am one in harmony with it all."

Then suddenly, a thought crashed into my moment... I am lost ... and all alone.

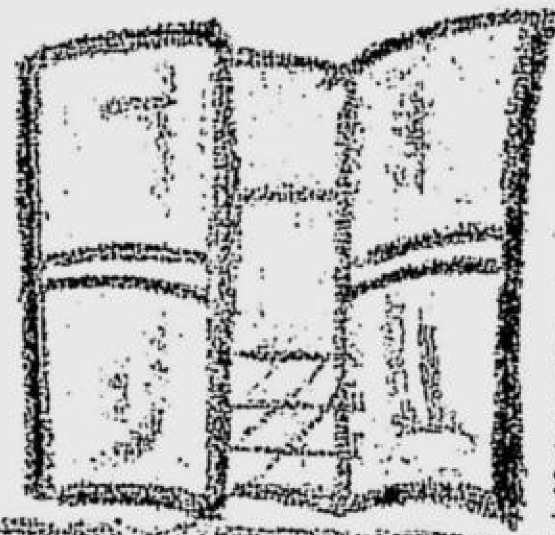
Editor's Note: *The author wrote the above essay after a very enjoyable trip to Sagada, Mountain Province. "More Filipinos—especially kids like me—should visit it," he said of the place. One of Luigi's writings was also published on the Young Blood section of the Phil. Daily Inquirer on June 18.*

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

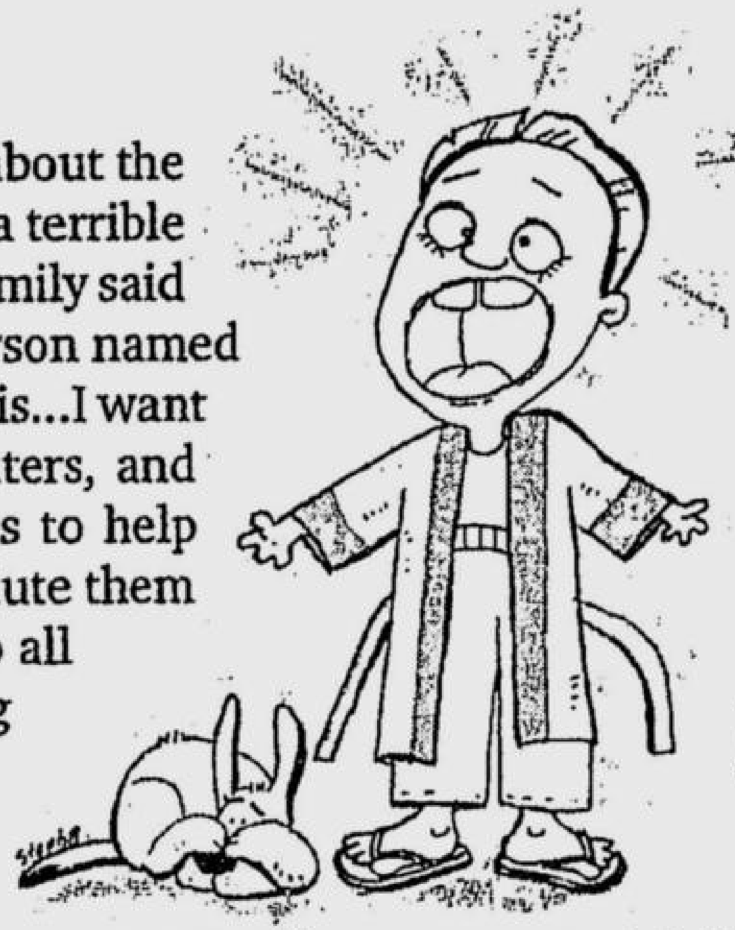
You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



9-11 Thoughts

DEAR Editor,

I want to share my thoughts about the Sept. 11 tragedy. Who did such a terrible thing? My classmates and my family said terrorists did it. They said a person named Bin Laden was the head of all this...I want to thank all the police, firefighters, and everyone who risked their lives to help people in danger. We should salute them for their bravery. We could help all the people who died by praying for their souls.—**ERNESTO MACATANGAY JR.**, 11 years old, Mandaluyong City.



Dear Ernesto,

*Thanks for sharing your thoughts with us. Many people died in the 9-11 attacks in the US last year. But many more innocent people are dying, being injured and losing their homes in Afghanistan. Let us pray for them too and hope that the "war on terrosrism" will be peacefully resolved soon.—**The Editor***

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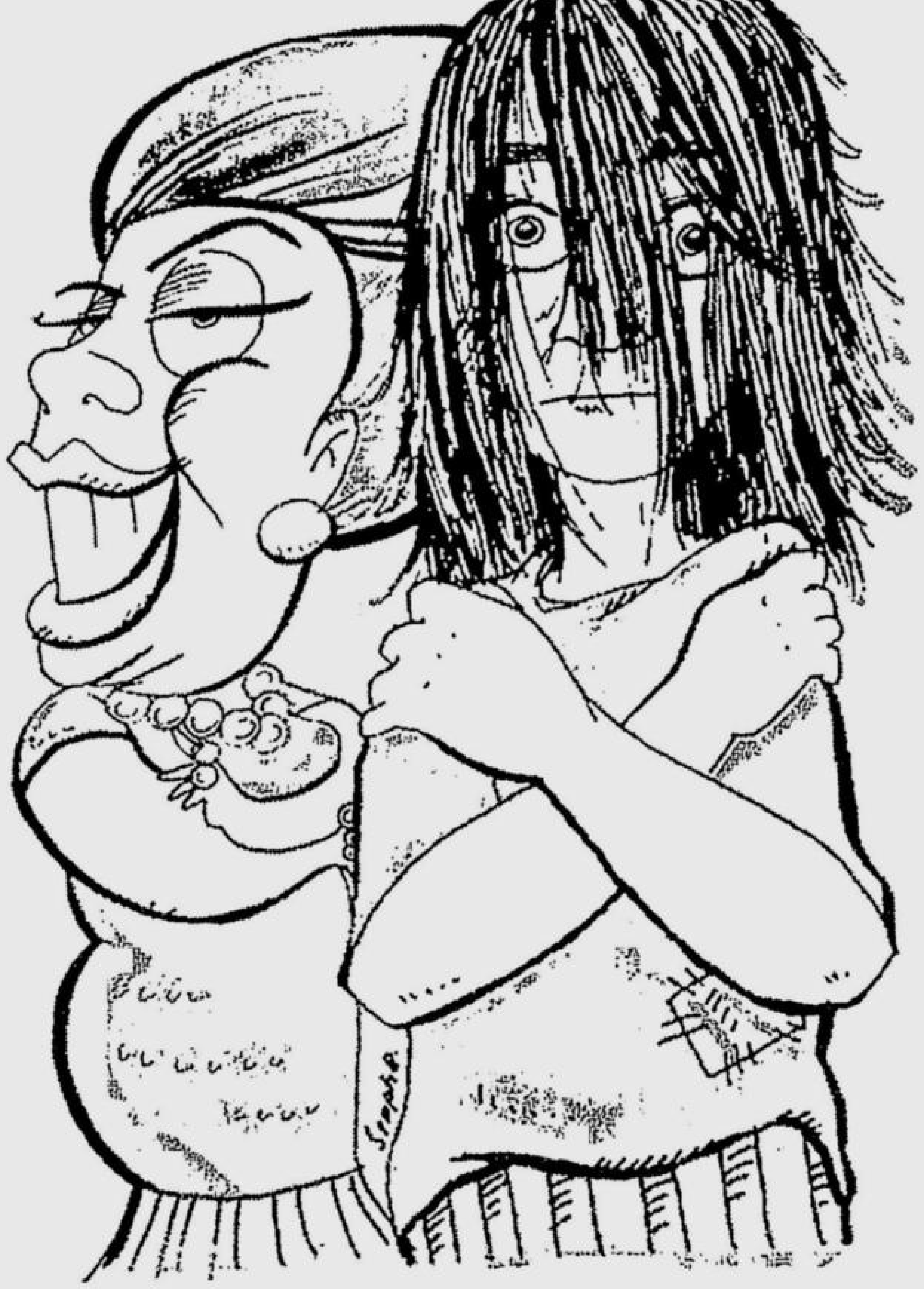
Sino ang Baliw?

Naglalakad sa kalsada,
Nakasabog ang buhok sa mukha,
Palaboy-laboy lamang,
Habang kumakalam ang tiyan.
Minsan tumatawa,
Minsan umiiyak.
Ang tingin ng mga tao ito ang baliw.

Nakaupo habang nilulustay
Ang kanyang pera at yaman,
Habang pinapahirapan
Ang mga alilang kawawa
Na nagsisilibi sa kanya ng walang reklamo
Na ang binabalik ay pahirap at kahihiyan.

Kaya naman kay hirap isipin
Kung ano ang tunay na itsura,
Ang tunay na katayuan
Ng tunay na baliw.
Kaya hindi ko lubos maisip
Kung ginagalang siya o nilalapastangan,
Kung sino nga siya,
Kung ang mayaman o ang mahirap.
Kaya hindi ko maiwasang magtanong
Kung sino nga ba ang tunay na baliw.

Mga kabataan,
Laging tandaan,
Huwag maghusga sa panlabas na anyo.
Ang tingnan ay ang kalooban,
Dahil wala kang mapapala
Sa maling pag-aakala.
Tandaang hindi sa pag-uugali
O sa respeto malalaman
Kung sino ang tunay na baliw.
Malalaman ito kung nirerespeto mo
Ang mga tao dito
Sa pamayanang kinatatayuan natin.



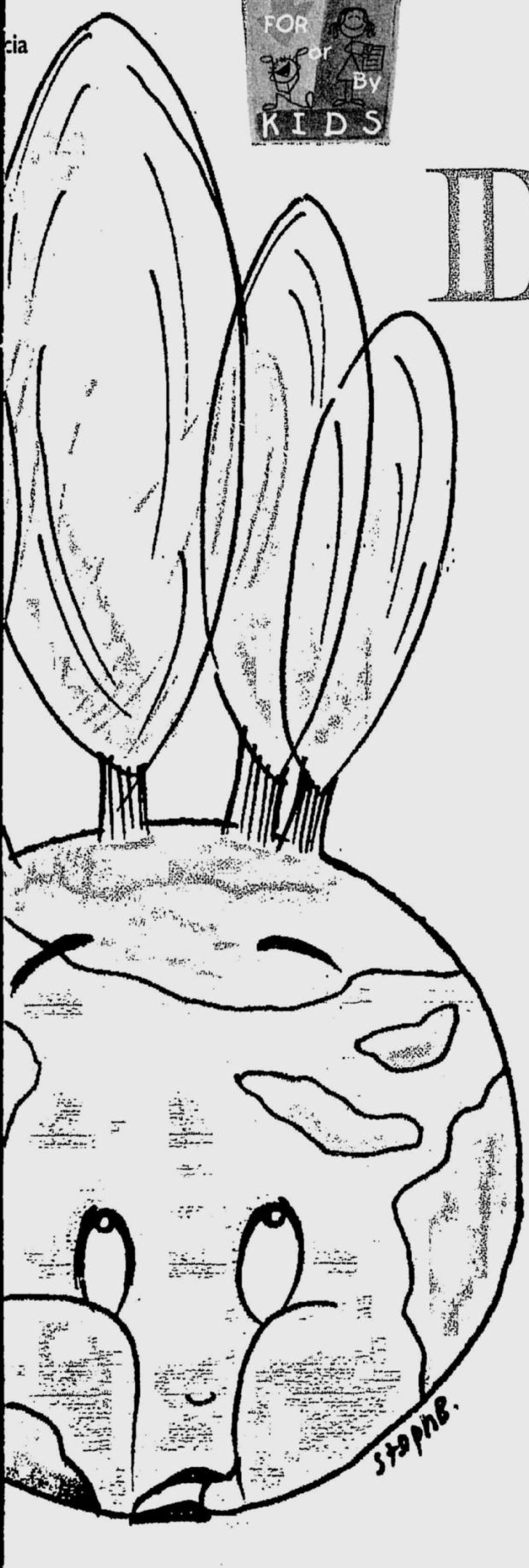
Poem and Story by Roma Airia P. Gar

Illustrations by Stephanie Bravo

cia

FOR or By KIDS

Ang Damdamin ng Isang Puno



MINSANG may mga magtotroso na nagtungo sa Mt. Makiling upang mamutol ng mga puno. Pinutol nila ang halos isang-kapat ng bundok. At nang pababa na sila ng bundok, may nakita silang isang napakagandang puno. Ang tindig nito ay talagang tuwid. At ang mga dahon nito ay berdeng-berde pa rin. Kaya naman naisipan ng mga magtotroso na putulin ito.

Sa pananahimik ng puno ay nararamdaman nito ang pagputol sa kanya ng mga magtotroso. Habang tinitiis nito ang pamumutol sa kanya ay taimtim siyang nagdarasal. “Panginoon ko, kung makapagsasalita lang ho ako ay pipigilin ko na ho sila sa pagsira sa bundok na ito,” daing ng puno. Kinausap ito ng Panginoon at sinabing, “Natutuwa ako sa iyo, aking nilalang, dahil pinapahalagahan mo ang bundok na iyong kinatatayuan kaya naman pinagbibigyan ko ang hiling mo.”

At sa isang iglap ay bigla na lang nakapagsasalita ang puno at sinabing, “Mama, mama, tigilan niyo na ho iyan. Nakakalbo na ho ang bundok. Kawawa naman ho kaming mga puno.” Pagkatapos masabi ito ay hindi na uli nakapagsasalita ang puno. Ang mga magtotroso naman ay nagtatakbo nang paalis. At hindi na uli sila bumalik sa bundok.

Pero kahit nakaalis na ang mga magtotroso ay patuloy pa rin sa pagbagsak ang puno. Napansin ito ng Panginoon at sinalo niya ang puno. Ibinalik niya ito sa dati niyang tindig. At ibinalik na rin niya ang iba pang mga puno sa dati nilang puwesto. At mula noon ay naging maligaya na ang mga punong iyon.

*Si **Roma**, 9, ay nag-aaral sa Spirit Wings Learning Foundation.*
*Si **Steph** ang staff artist ng Junior Inquirer.*

ACCOUNTANT-TO-BE? Eleven-year-old Reychel is trusted with the family's store earnings.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Honesty's Child

Reychel saw the money on the floor and did NOT keep it for herself!

By Eline Santos

ONE hundred and twenty pesos can buy a lot of stuff! But when 11-year-old Reychel Ann San Gabriel found P120 on the floor, she promptly turned it over to authorities at St. Michael's School where she studies.

"The money was just lying on the floor," Reychel recalls. It had fallen out of the skirt of a Grade 6 schoolmate she didn't know. "I called out to her but she ran so fast."

Reychel decided to turn it over to the school registrar and the anonymous girl got her money back.

Good Kid

Trustworthy Reychel helps to look after their *sari-sari* store from time to time. She knows most of the prices of the store items. But when she doesn't, she asks her parents.

Reychel hasn't quite decided what she would like to be though. "Teacher *siguro*," she ventures. She says she would like to teach a subject called Good Morals and Right Conduct.

Caring *Ate*

Her grandmother describes Reychel as a diligent child. And sure enough, Reychel was studying with classmates after school when we met her. Her favorite subject is science.

Nursing is another career option that appeals to her. If her actions toward her kid brother is an indication, Reychel certainly has the potential.

"I gave him fruit. I also gave him his medicine," Reychel relates how she helped take care of youngest brother Reynard John when he got sick.

"She gave him an icepack all the time," Reychel's proud lola relates.

If the money she had picked up was P500, would she still return it? Reychel nods her head and advises peers to do the same. "*Always return things that aren't yours.*"

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the the nomination form below and send it to:

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1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt, Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!

Kids r' rrific

nomination form

I nominate: ______________________
____
____
Age: _____________________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)
____
____
____
____
____
____

She/he lives at __________________
____
____

and studies at ___________________
____

Her/his contact number is:
____

Sender's Name: ___________________
____

Sender's Age & School: ___________
____

Sender's Address: ________________
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Sender's Contact No.: ____________
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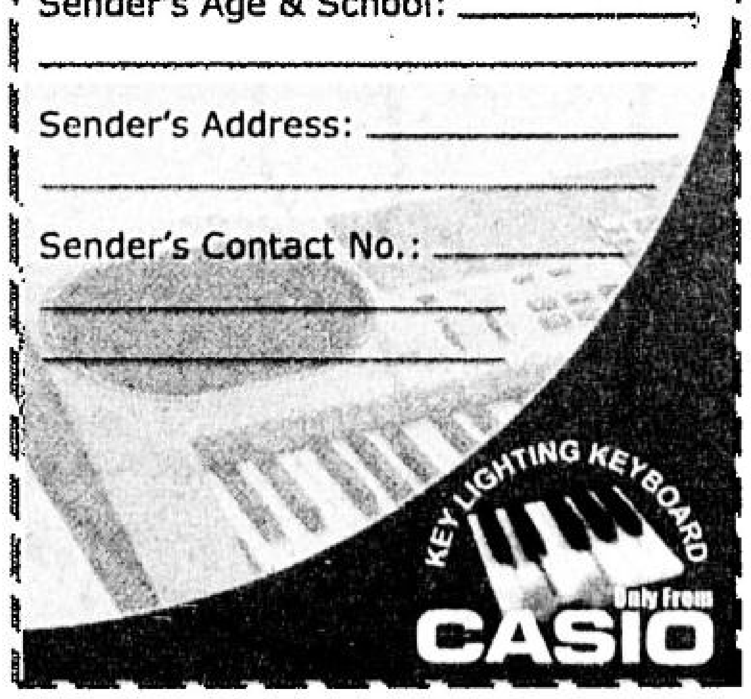
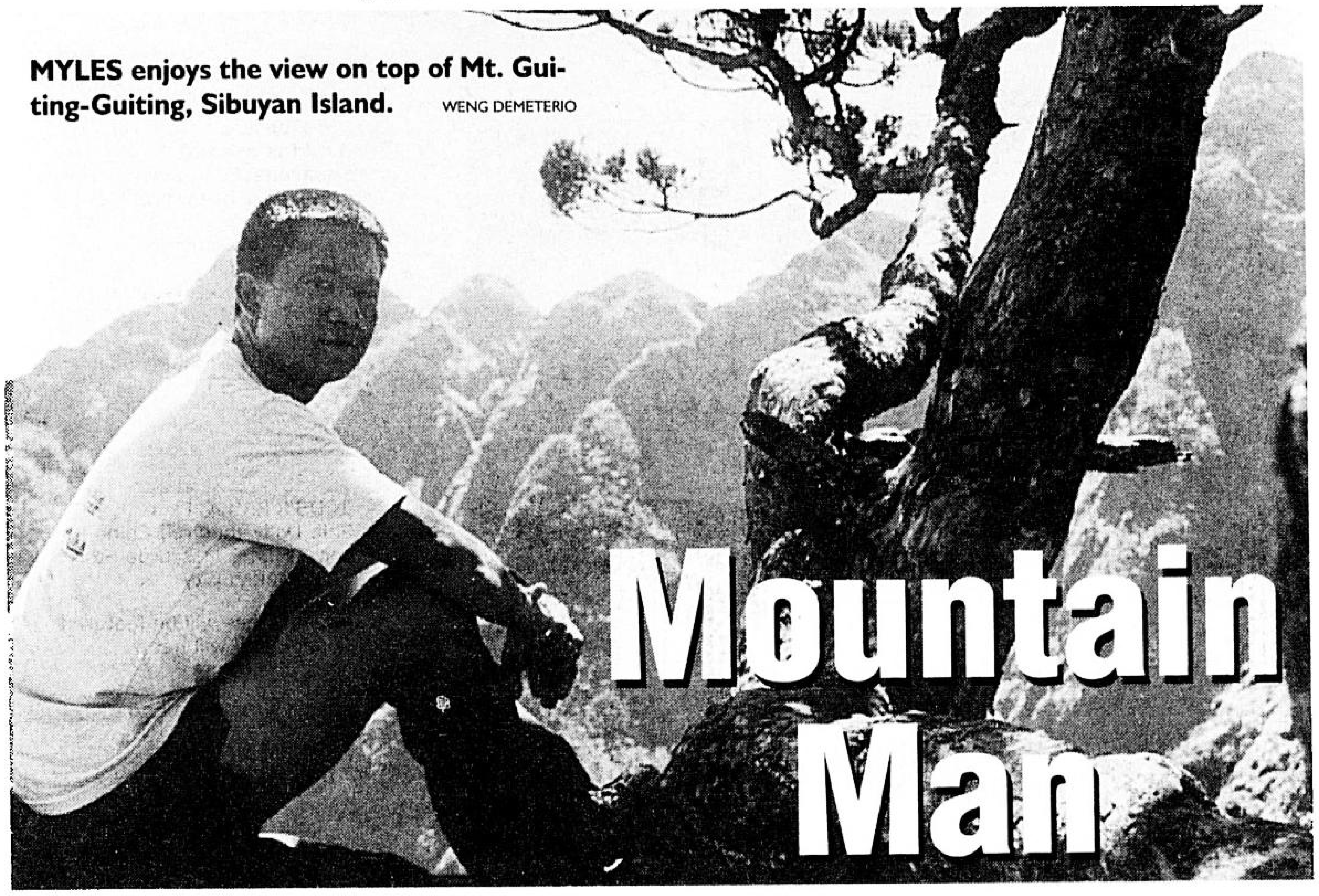




MYLES enjoys the view on top of Mt. Guiting-Guiting, Sibuyan Island. WENG DEMETERIO

Mountain Man

He draws. He paints. He designs. But most of all, he climbs and climbs and climbs...

By Eline Santos

MYLES Anthony Delfin is into anything creative—painting, photography, interior design—and works as a freelance graphic designer. He is also into sports and just like his lizard artwork on the post of their clubhouse, he enjoys clinging to rock.

The mountaineering bug came from his mom, Melinde, an original member of the 40-year-old Nature Explorers Society in Cebu City. The group has been climbing mountains since the 1960s.

"Ever since I was young I would imagine being in old Tarzan movies. You go into the jungle... *parang ang sarap ng* feeling that you're going on an adventure," Myles recalls. "When I got older, my mom started taking me along trips. I discovered I can really do this for real. It's not only in the movies."

Myles has been to Mt. Maculot, Mt. Cristobal, Mt. Halcon and many more mountains. Topping the list with a total of 33 visits over the last 12 years is Mt. Banahaw.

Mountaineers who Care

"When we started climbing at Mt. Banahaw, there were very few climbers because mountaineering wasn't in yet," Myles remembers. "We saw the progression of the damage to the mountain. Some people didn't notice it but we did because we were there when the trail was narrow and you wouldn't see even a candy wrapper. *Hanggang sa nangyari 'yung* trail *parang* highway *na, tapos may mga basag na bote*... you feel bad for the place."

Myles and his friends have held clean-up activities at their favorite mountain. They are also volunteers in Happy Earth's Adopt-a-Native-Tree project. With training from the National Museum, they explored areas in Batangas to find out where else the endangered Malabayabas tree grew. Sometimes they bring back seeds for scientists to study how to grow the tree better.

Lately, Myles is also into adventure races with his team Geostride. Team members include Christopher Laurel as the navigator, Weng Demeterio as the strategist and Allan Santos as support captain.

Myles says adventure racing "is a different kind of sport, it forces you to use all your talents—physically, intellectually. You have to rappel, you have to kayak, you have to mountain bike, you have to climb, you have to run. Everything."

"You become prideless," teammate Christopher joins in. He says even good grooming goes neglected.

"Even the hunkiest guy will cry actually," agrees Weng, the only female member.

They say teamwork is key. And strong willpower and determination not to give up. "The mind gets tired easier than the body," says Christopher.

"We all love adventure, sports, environment," Myles says of the team. "But we want to do it responsibly. What we are doing, it should improve us as individuals."

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ______________.
He/She is ________ years old and
is my ________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)____________________;
2)____________________;
3)____________________;
4)____________________;
5)____________________;

My nominee lives a________________________.
Give him/her a call at ________
or send him/her an e-mail at ______________________.
By the way, I'm ______________________________.
I'm__________ years old.
My address is______________________________.
You may call me at___________________________.

MYTH QUIZ

LISTED on the left column are the Greek and Roman names of popular gods and goddesses in classical mythology. Can you link each with the power, object or place he or she is associated with?

____ 1. Ares/Mars
____ 2. Aphrodite/Venus
____ 3. Hades/Pluto
____ 4. Hermes/Mercury
____ 5. Poseidon/Neptune
____ 6. Hera/Juno
____ 7. Athena/Minerva
____ 8. Artemis/Diana
____ 9. Hephaestus/Vulcan
____ 10. Demeter/Ceres
____ 11. Dionysus/Bacchus
____ 12. Hestia/Vesta

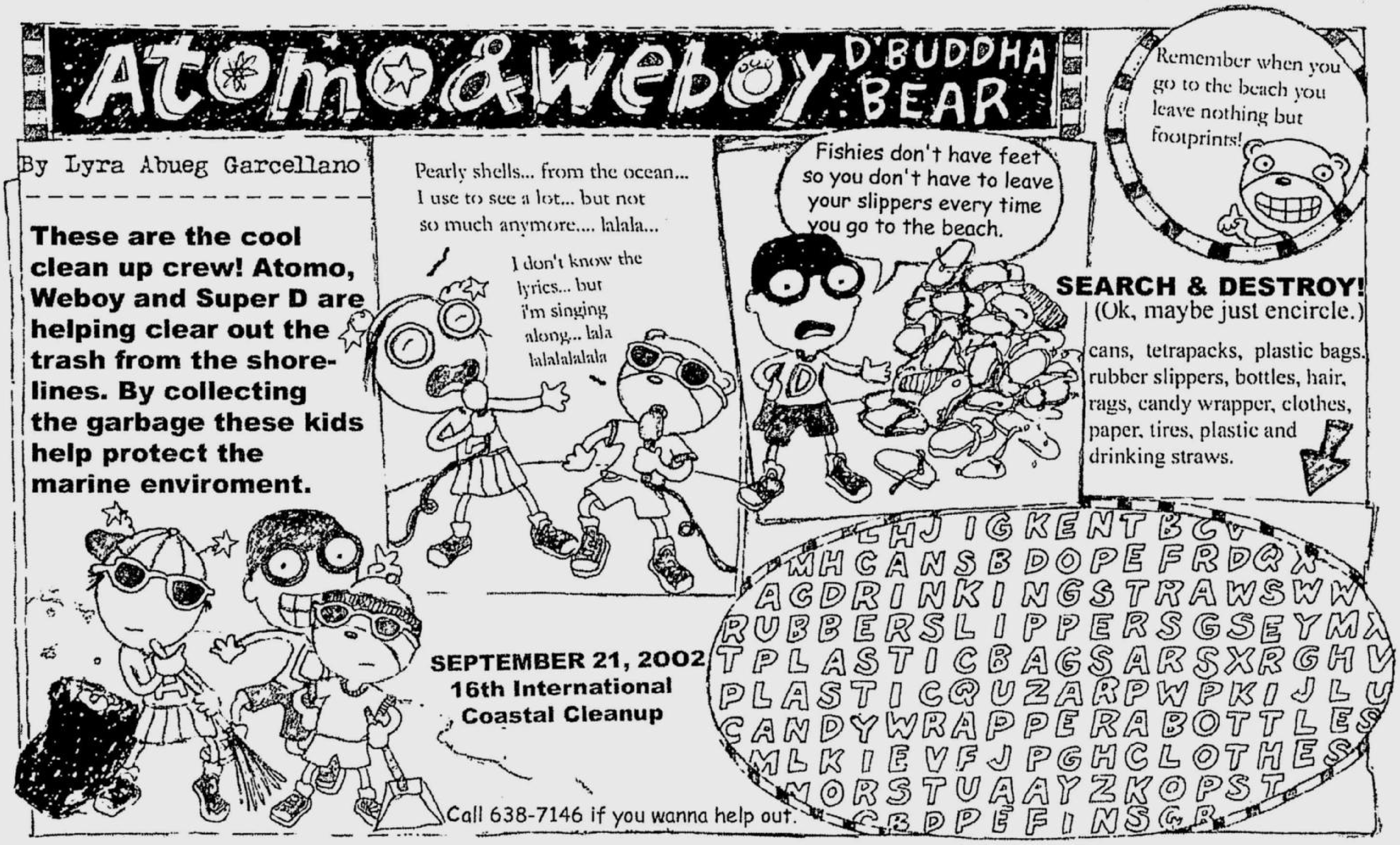
A. Wisdom
B. The Sea & Earthquakes
C. Grains & Harvest
D. Commerce & Travel
E. The Underworld
F. Nature & the Moon
G. Hearth & Home
H. War
I. Grapes & Wine
J. Fire & Crafts
K. Marriage & Childbirth
L. Love

Answers:

1. H
2. L
3. E
4. D
5. B
6. K
7. A
8. F
9. J
10. C
11. I
12. G

Ratings:

superbrain!	excellent	good
11-12	9-10	6-8


Atomo&Weboy D'BUDDHA BEAR

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

These are the cool clean up crew! Atomo, Weboy and Super D are helping clear out the trash from the shorelines. By collecting the garbage these kids help protect the marine enviroment.

Pearly shells... from the ocean... I use to see a lot... but not so much anymore.... lalala...
I don't know the lyrics... but i'm singing along... lala lalalalalala
Fishies don't have feet so you don't have to leave your slippers every time you go to the beach.
Remember when you go to the beach you leave nothing but footprints!

SEARCH & DESTROY!
(Ok, maybe just encircle.)

cans, tetrapacks, plastic bags. rubber slippers, bottles, hair, rags, candy wrapper, clothes, paper, tires, plastic and drinking straws.

LHJIGKENTBCV
MHCANSBDOPEFRDQX
ACDRINKINGSTRAWSWW
RUBBERSLIPPERSGSEYMX
TPLASTICBAGSARSXRGHV
PLASTICQUZARPWPKIJLU
CANDYWRAPPERABOTTLES
MLKIEVFJPGHCLOTHES
MORSTUAAYZKOPST
CBDPEFINSGR

SEPTEMBER 21, 2002
16th International Coastal Cleanup

Call 638-7146 if you wanna help out.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2002

JUNIOR INQUIRER

Unfolding Arcellana's "The Mats" for Young Readers

FILE PHOTO

ARCELLANA. "The Mats" was his "stab at immortality."

By Reni Roxas Singer

BY the time he sat down to breakfast, the story was written. He was 22 years old, and the story he wrote on a perfect ordinary morning in 1938 would later be described by Nick Joaquin as "incomparable...one of the great artifacts of Philippine culture."

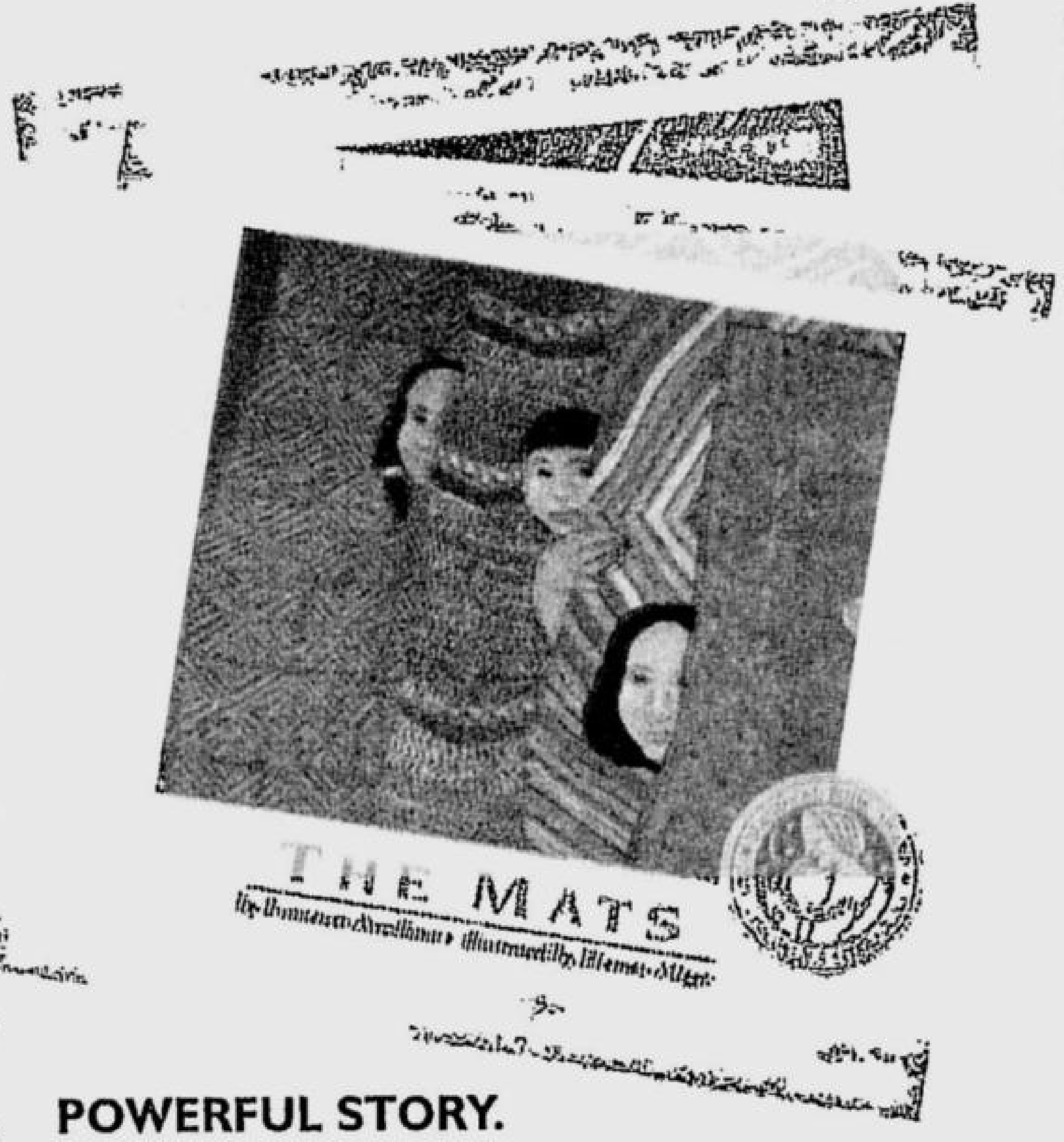
It was in college where I first read the short story "The Mats." Try as I did, it would not fold itself up and out of my mind. The author, Franz Arcellana, was my English Literature professor at the University of the Philippines. We dissected fiction in his class. That year, with the gentle benevolence of a mentor, Mr. Arcellana got me into U.P.'s summer creative writing program. The workshop opened the door to a secret garden of writers and their stories.

Over a decade later—after reading stacks of manuscripts in publishing offices in New York—the story of the mats stuck to my mind like rugby.

The tale continued to invite me again and again into the sala of one Filipino family, to stand among its members as a silent, invisible guest as each mat was unrolled. To witness once more the delight of a family in their father's return from a long trip, only to have a catch-in-the-throat sadness overtake them all.

"He was a very angry man, wasn't he?" a writer-friend and fellow admirer of Mr. Arcellana's work once remarked. "Who—who was angry?" I asked. "Why the father—the father in the story—he had a lot of anger bottled up inside."

Perhaps so. But for me at its core this story involved children—their hushed expectations soon replaced by uncontained joy at finding a mat made for each of them—a mat that bore a custom-woven trademark unique to each child. Best of all, they were a present from Father.



POWERFUL STORY.
The short story became a children's book and outlived the writer.

I had approached our book distributor with some trepidation about taking the story "The Mats" and asking Franz to adapt it for children. Not only was the tale over half a century old, it was, after all, a story about death. And stories about death don't sell. Still the irresistible pull of the story steered my husband and me to take Franz and his wife, Emi, to lunch at Cravings Restaurant in 1994.

Over grilled fish and boiled cauliflower Franz agreed without hesitation to reissue his story as an adaptation for children. But not before wondering out loud, "Do you think it would work, Re-née?" He liked letting the accent fall on the second syllable of my name as if we were stranded in the streets of Paris.

The picture book bearing the same title was illustrated on oil canvasses by Hermes Alegre and published in 1995. The following year it won the National Book Award for Children's Literature. And the book defied expectations by going on to reprint. Franz would later refer to this little story with mirth in his eyes as his "stab at immortality."

A year later Anvil publisher Karina Bolasco returned from Frankfurt Bookfair with a calling card from an American publisher, Madeline Kahn of Kane/Miller Publishers. Later Kahn confided to me: It was the last day of the bookfair and she was scouring booth after booth for foreign picture books to add to her publist. The she spied "The Mats" sitting on a shelf in a Philippine booth. She recalled the unflinching gaze of Alegre's three children on the book's cover, peering at the world from behind a canopy of colorfully woven mats. "It was for me the most beautiful children's book in the entire fair," Kahn said. Tahanan sold North American rights to Kane/Miller. A year later a Korean publisher bought the Korean rights.

Of all our books, "The Mats" has gained the most mileage. Why? Perhaps because, despite the parochial setting, its timeless theme of love's hold beyond the grave easily hurdled the boundaries of race and culture. In a tense scene in the story, the father grapples with the cord that tied the mats ("It was strong. It would not break. It would not give way.") A poignant allegory for a father's unspeakable grief over the death of three infant daughters.

Finally Alfonso...apppeared at Papa's side with a pair of scissors.

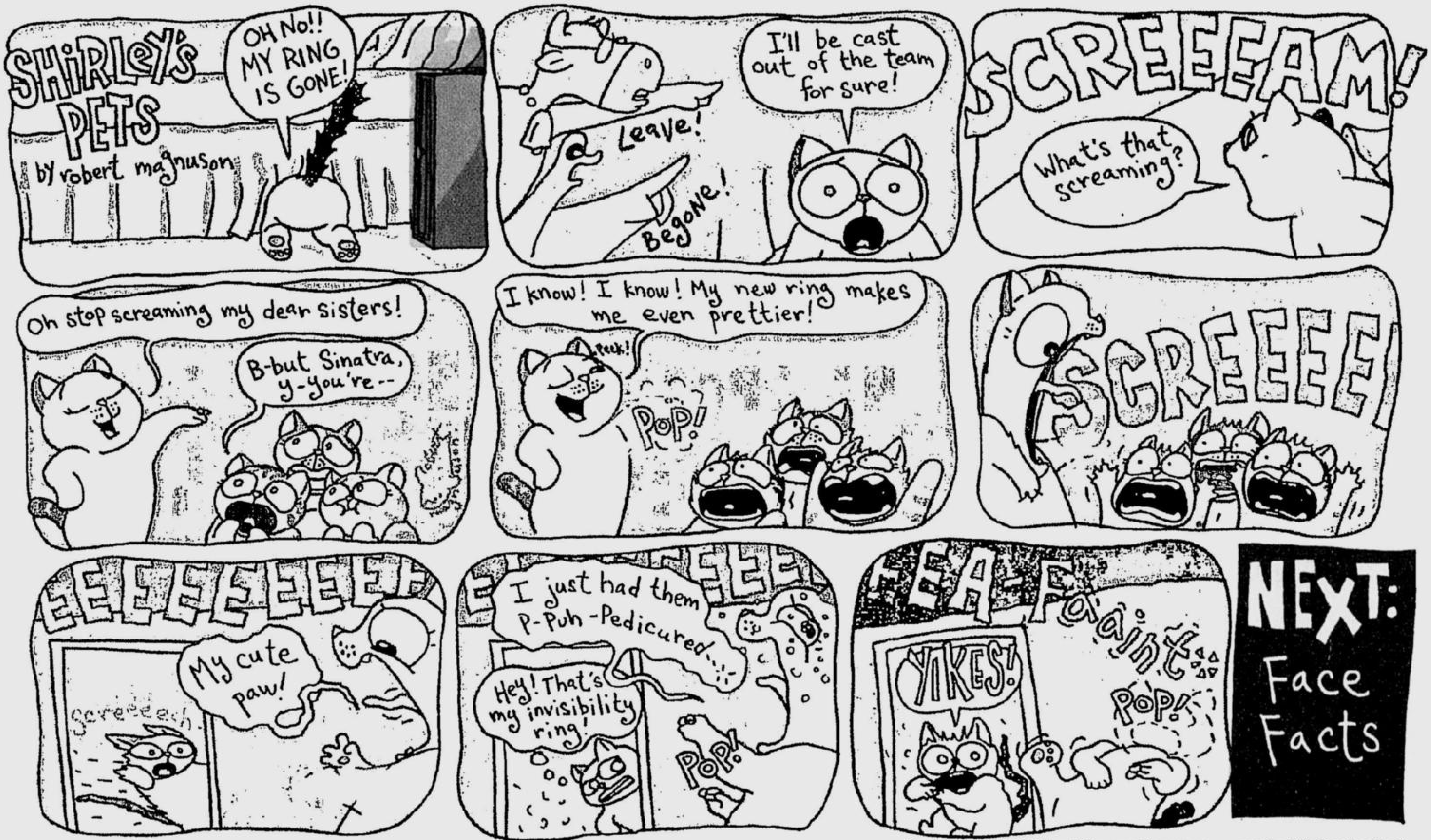
Papa took the scissors. One swift movement, snip! and the bundle was loose!

And suddenly we are yanked back to the world of the living.

No matter that it was written over 60 years ago. Arcellana's fiction masterfully tugged at the heartstrings of our humanity, leaving behind indelible images and characters that will long survive the writer that created them.

***Editor's Note:** National Artist for Literature Francisco Arcellana passed away on Aug. 1 at the age of 85. Reni Roxas Singer is publisher of Tahanan Books for Young Readers. "The Mats" is available at all Bookmark and Filipino Bookstore outlets.*

Last Episode: The animal heroes have been defeated by Pancho and his team. Meanwhile, Sinatra Therese continues to show off Little John's Junior Hero Membership Ring, not realizing that it has been turning her half invisible...


SHIRLEY'S PETS
by robert magnuson
OH NO!! MY RING IS GONE!
Leave!
BeGoNe!
I'll be cast out of the team for sure!
SCREEEAM!
What's that screaming?
Oh stop screaming my dear sisters!
B-but Sinatra, y-you're--
I know! I know! My new ring makes me even prettier!
Peek!
POP!
SCREEEE
EEEEEEEEE
My cute paw!
screeeech
EEE
I just had them P-Puh-Pedicured...
Hey! That's my invisibility ring!
POP!
EEA-Faaint
YIKES!
POP!
NEXT: Face Facts

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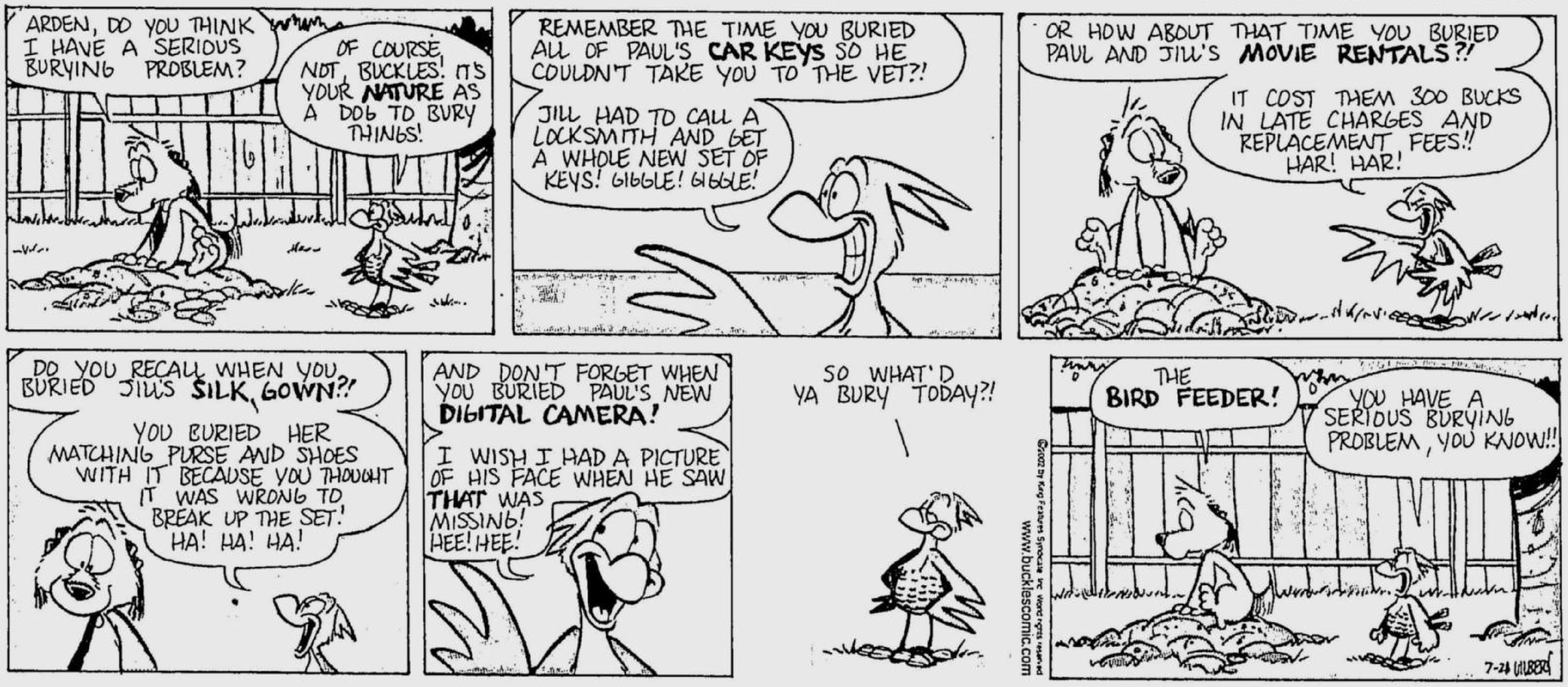
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


ARDEN, DO YOU THINK I HAVE A SERIOUS BURYING PROBLEM?
OF COURSE NOT, BUCKLES! IT'S YOUR NATURE AS A DOG TO BURY THINGS!
REMEMBER THE TIME YOU BURIED ALL OF PAUL'S CAR KEYS SO HE COULDN'T TAKE YOU TO THE VET?!
JILL HAD TO CALL A LOCKSMITH AND GET A WHOLE NEW SET OF KEYS! GIGGLE! GIGGLE!
OR HOW ABOUT THAT TIME YOU BURIED PAUL AND JILL'S MOVIE RENTALS?!
IT COST THEM 300 BUCKS IN LATE CHARGES AND REPLACEMENT FEES!! HAR! HAR!
DO YOU RECALL WHEN YOU BURIED JILL'S SILK GOWN?!
YOU BURIED HER MATCHING PURSE AND SHOES WITH IT BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT IT WAS WRONG TO BREAK UP THE SET! HA! HA! HA!
AND DON'T FORGET WHEN YOU BURIED PAUL'S NEW DIGITAL CAMERA!
I WISH I HAD A PICTURE OF HIS FACE WHEN HE SAW THAT WAS MISSING! HEE! HEE!
SO WHAT'D YA BURY TODAY?!
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THE BIRD FEEDER!
YOU HAVE A SERIOUS BURYING PROBLEM, YOU KNOW!!
7-24 GILBERT